



James Kohnen

December 23, 1938 - March 20, 2019

The funeral service for James Kohnen of Bertha will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Bertha with Reverend Blake Rickbeil presiding. A visitation will be held at the church on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service.

James, age 80, passed away on March 20, 2019, while in Truth or Consequences, New Mexico.

James Allen Kohnen was born in Wadena, Minnesota on December 23, 1938 to Hilda (Anderson) and Hobart Kohnen. His father died suddenly when Jim was 17 and he immediately took over management of the family farm in Bertha. Hilda remarried Otto Weickert in 1962 and he was a great step-father to Jim.

In 1961 Jim met his first love, Evelyn Raaum at the Clarissa Ballroom. They got to know each other on the dance floor and were married on June 16, 1962. They enjoyed 39 years together before cancer took her too soon in 2001. They raised 2 sons, Todd and Kevin. Jim had a 40-year career in the creamery management business. Everyone was greeted with a smile and a joke about Sven, Ole or Lena, followed by Jim's deep laugh. He was involved heavily in community service.

He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, on many boards at Zion Lutheran Church, and on the original board of SANTA (Springfield Area Nativity Association); bringing the first ever live nativity pageant to Springfield and it is still going today. He also served on many church boards over the years.

In 1993 Jim and Ev moved to Alexandria as Jim took a job managing the Nelson Creamery to live out his dream of owning a lake home. He enjoyed many years in that home watching his grandchildren grow. He loved pulling them around the lake for water skiing or tubing, and teaching the kids how to fish.

When Ev passed away, Jim met Glenda Rach, who was also widowed. They were married on February 2, 2002. Jim moved to Glenda's home on the farm. Soon after he retired from his career in the creamery business. He took up a hobby refurbishing tractors. He also spent many hours in the woodshop creating treasures for family and friends and loved "keeping up" the yard and grove. He always had a project going.

Jim and Glenda delighted in 17 years together. They enjoyed traveling, camping, road trips and going south in winter that they were both healthy. He was a man of simple pleasures getting his coffee in Hewitt each weekday, playing cards with friends, and helping others when they needed an extra hand.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents and wife Evelyn.

Jim is survived by wife Glenda, sons, Todd (special friend Jill McIntire), Kevin (Tammy); grandchildren, Daniel (Erin) Wersal, Nicole (Alexander) Warfield, Mackenzie Kohlen, Jordan, Katie and Michelle Kohlen; great-grandchildren Bradley, Annie and Benjamin Wersal; stepchildren Kim (Robin) Holt, Nedda

(Dan) Zetah, Jeff (Roberta) Rach; step-grandchildren Josh, Jamie and Luke Holt, Makayla Zetah, Shanel and Jason Lund, Dillon Overton, Morgan, Sydney and Alli Rach and step-great-grandchildren Ethan, Elliana and Aria Lund.

Honorary pallbearers will be Dean Hetland, Ervin Schlichting and Marlan Weickert.

Active pallbearers will be Dan Wersal, David Klabunde, Alan Anderson, Bill Kern, Josh Holt and Rodney Carpenter.

Burial will be in Geneva Cemetery, Alexandria, MN.

Cemetery Details

Geneva Cemetery

Alexandria, MN 56308

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 30. 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Bertha
203 1st Ave. SE
MN 56437

Service

MAR 30. 11:30 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Bertha
203 1st Ave. SE
MN 56437

Tribute Wall

CE

“ Jim and Glenda made it all the way to Eagle River, AK in their little camper. It was great to get to know Jim and to see that Glenda had found a guy who could make everyone smile. We are sorry for the loss all who loved him are experiencing.

Cheryl,Ralph & Jilli Erickson - April 10, 2019 at 10:30 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of James Kohnen.



March 29, 2019 at 05:49 AM

PR

“ Jim was a great creamery manger at Springfield. I got to know him growing up there. My dad was President of the board for many years that we milked cows. I got to know both of his sons, Todd and Kevin also. When i returned home from college and worked on the farm, i followed in my dad's footsteps and also got on the board with Jim still manager. He left soon after that because the milking industry started to dry up here. My dad said he was the best creamery manager we ever had. He was always friendly and honest. RIP Jim. Phil Runck

phil runck - March 28, 2019 at 02:32 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Kohnen.*



March 28, 2019 at 12:48 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Memories Album*



Kevin Kohnen - March 28, 2019 at 10:56 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Kohnen.*



March 28, 2019 at 10:31 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of James Kohnen.*



March 27, 2019 at 06:02 PM

SS

“ *SunSource - Mobile Service & Repair SBU purchased the Heavenly Light for the family of James Kohnen.*



SunSource - Mobile Service & Repair SBU - March 26, 2019 at 03:22 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of James Kohnen.*



March 26, 2019 at 03:05 PM

DS

“ *Danfoss Power Solutions purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of James Kohnen.*



Danfoss Power Solutions - March 26, 2019 at 02:37 PM

SB

“ *Did not ever meet Jim. He must have been a very special person as he married Glenda who we have always considered family. I met his son while I was working in Shakopee driving shuttle at the Chevrolet dealer and was surprised to learn we were all related. We are so sorry for your loss*

steve and linda babcock - March 26, 2019 at 12:19 AM

SF

“ *SANDY FRENCH lit a candle in memory of James Kohnen*



SANDY FRENCH - March 25, 2019 at 11:30 AM

JD

“ *Jane Dettmer lit a candle in memory of James Kohnen*



jane dettmer - March 25, 2019 at 07:13 AM

ED

“ *So sorry to hear of Jim's passing. We will certainly miss him this fall, but please you are welcome to be there. Hugs & prayers to you and family.*

Ellen Dalen

Ellen Dalen - March 24, 2019 at 06:50 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of James Kohnen.*



March 24, 2019 at 12:15 PM

DO

“ Doug And Joan Ostlund lit a candle in memory of James Kohnen



Doug and Joan Ostlund - March 23, 2019 at 07:48 PM

PA

“ I remember Jim and I playing with our trucks and tractors in my old playing place on the farm, I'm glad I got to see him last spring.



Preacher Dave Anderson - March 23, 2019 at 03:14 PM

MS

“ Mike And Lea Snyder lit a candle in memory of James Kohnen



Mike and Lea Snyder - March 23, 2019 at 12:08 PM

DA

“ Darrell And Deb Anderson lit a candle in memory of James Kohnen



Darrell and Deb Anderson - March 23, 2019 at 08:29 AM



“ *Julie Eidenschink lit a candle in memory of James Kohlen*



Julie Eidenschink - March 22, 2019 at 09:32 PM



“ *Ginger & Roland Gilbert lit a candle in memory of James Kohlen*



Ginger & Roland Gilbert - March 22, 2019 at 06:01 PM

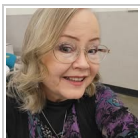


“ *We are sorry for your loss. We trust and pray that God will comfort you in His own special way!*

Conrad and Shirley



Shirley Van Batavia - March 22, 2019 at 05:12 PM



“ *Prayers for everyone!@*

Lori Ostrowski - March 22, 2019 at 11:12 AM

GG

“ Gary And Roseann Graphenteen lit a candle
in memory of James Kohnen



Gary and Roseann Graphenteen - March 22, 2019 at 10:58 AM

NB

“ Neal Leona Bowman lit a candle in memory of
James Kohnen



Neal Leona Bowman - March 21, 2019 at 09:19 PM

MA

“ Mark And Barb Allen lit a candle in memory of
James Kohnen



Mark and Barb Allen - March 21, 2019 at 05:37 PM

GK

“ Gene & Sandy Kapphahn lit a candle in
memory of James Kohnen



Gene & Sandy Kapphahn - March 21, 2019 at 05:31 PM