



Kenneth Carpenter

June 22, 1944 - November 25, 2024

A gathering of family and friends celebrating the life of Ken Carpenter of Wadena will be held on Saturday, December 14, starting with a potluck at 4:30p.m. at the Elmer Goche Post 3922, VFW in Wadena.

Kenneth Ray Carpenter, 80, passed away peacefully on November 25, 2024, at Astera Hospital in Wadena, MN, with his loving wife by his side.

Ken was born on June 22, 1944, in the upstairs of a railroad depot in Carl Junction, Missouri, to William and Ethel (Smith) Carpenter. He was one of nine children, all of whom preceded him in death.

At the age of 17, Ken joined the United States Army and served as a medic in Germany for three years, earning an honorable discharge in 1964. After his military service, Ken worked in a variety of trades, including tree trimming, car mechanics, and highway bridge construction. His work in construction took him to many locations, including Chamberlain, South Dakota, where he met Karen. After only three months of dating, Ken and Karen were married, beginning a loving partnership that would last over 55 years.

In 1979, Ken and Karen moved their family to Minnesota, settling near Verndale, where they built a life and raised their children. Ken found joy in socializing with friends over card or dice games and was known for his talent

in taking on various handyman projects around the home.

Ken is survived by his devoted wife, Karen; their three children, Timothy and his wife Michelle, Wayne and his wife Olga, and Kari; three grandchildren, Jesse and his wife Elena, Chance, and Megan and her husband Garrett; and five great-grandchildren, Owen, Leo, Bennett, Max, and Lorelei.

Ken's warmth, humor, and strong work ethic will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Previous Events

Gathering of Family & Friends

DEC 14. 4:30 PM (CT)

Elmer Goche Post 3922, Veterans of Foreign Wars
213 1st St. SE
Wadena, MN 56482

Tribute Wall

MD

“ *Sending our love*

Ma&Pa Dolezal - December 13, 2024 at 10:46 AM

VJ

“ *Vicki Jahnke lit a candle in memory of
Kenneth Carpenter*



Vicki Jahnke - December 12, 2024 at 12:43 PM

TC

“ *One of the qualities I admired about my dad is he always gave of himself and put everyone else first.*

He is one of only a few who I would trust to move my family to Alaska. He did so twice.

I couldn't get off work to take my middle son to his drivers license test as soon as he wanted. The next day, there was a knock at the front door. It was my Dad. He drove 12 hours down so he could take "CW" to his drivers test.

I miss him and knowing he is always there to help, no matter what I get myself into.

Tim Carpenter - December 10, 2024 at 10:48 AM

VJ

Tim, I remember working with you at Holiday in Wadena some years back. I remember your dad as well. My sympathy to you and your families as you get through these difficult times. Share your memories, knowing he is only a thought away. Vicki Jahnke

Vicki Jahnke - December 12, 2024 at 12:42 PM

JC

“ *Jim and Janell Carr sent a virtual gift in memory of Kenneth Carpenter*



Jim and Janell Carr - December 07, 2024 at 12:37 PM

KU

“ *Karen Umland lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Carpenter*



Karen Umland - December 04, 2024 at 11:28 AM

SS

“ *When I saw that big black hat, I always knew who was under it. Great story teller and all around good friend to Len and I. A great loss to you Karen, but such good memories that only you and Kenny shared. I will think of him as often as my heart will allow.*



Sally Siegler - December 03, 2024 at 12:48 PM



“ Anita Beringer lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Carpenter



Anita Beringer - December 02, 2024 at 02:51 PM



“ I will forever remember when Kenny and Grandpa came to Colorado to pick us up when we moved back. I got to ride back to MN with him. We had lots of laughs and he shared lots of stories. Our families were always close. He will be very missed. Sending you all lots of love and prayers!!!!

Heidi Cypher - December 02, 2024 at 01:06 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Photos



Jesse Carpenter - December 01, 2024 at 09:46 PM

JC

“ My favorite memories of my grandfather, Ken, include when he taught me to drive in Alaska. I was ~14 years old with a learners permit and an abundance of overconfidence. He spent many hours riding along on steep mountainous roads of Alaska. He was consistently kind and patient when most would have been terrified. I was also touched by his flying out to see us in Alaska first thing when his grandson, Leo, was born. He was loved and will be greatly missed. -Jesse Carpenter, Grandson

Jesse Carpenter - December 01, 2024 at 09:42 PM

TS

“ Tony & Rhonda Snyder lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Carpenter



Tony & Rhonda Snyder - December 01, 2024 at 07:49 PM

TC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tim Carpenter - December 01, 2024 at 05:02 PM

SD

“ Sending you all my deepest condolences during this time. It was always nice to catch his familiar smiling face from time to time in Wadena after Verndale basically shut down. Karen, I wish you all the time love and support during the next chapter of your journey. Always know Ken is beside you. 🙏 Take care, Hugs to you all!!



Shelly Dukowitz - December 01, 2024 at 10:35 AM

HA

“ Sorry to hear about Ken. He always had a smile on his face and was a jolly guy to talk to. He was part of my extended family thru marriage. Sending prayers and thoughts to all of you, Helen and Art



Helen Allee - November 30, 2024 at 04:53 PM

NS

“ My sincere sympathy, Karen and your family. Know that Ken is always with you in spirit ❤️ ✨💕

Naomi Stone - November 30, 2024 at 11:02 AM

KT

“ Karen Treangen lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Carpenter



Karen Treangen - November 30, 2024 at 10:06 AM

KT

“ Karen I am so sorry to hear of your Sweethearts departure, I know how much time and good times you enjoyed together, working in the woods or with the Cows etc. I enjoyed talking with you and Kenneth. You will really miss him but will met with him again May all your memories sustain you Karen and your family. You have all my Love Prayers and hugs 🍷🙏💕 Karen Treangen

Karen Treangen - November 30, 2024 at 10:06 AM

MG

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Megan Gunter - November 29, 2024 at 08:53 PM