



## Kenneth "Frenchie" O'Claire

April 11, 1936 - May 13, 2015

The memorial service for Kenneth "Frenchie" O'Claire of Bertha, will be held at 1:00p.m. on Saturday, May 16, at the Domian-Anderson Chapel in Bertha. Friends may call on Saturday at the Chapel in Bertha from 11:30a.m. until the time of service. Ken passed away on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, at Fair Oaks Lodge in Wadena, MN. He was 79 years old.

Ken "Frenchie" was born to George and Antoinette (Payment) O'Claire on April 11, 1936, in Effie, MN. He met Velma Ritchie and they were married on February 28, 1958. They raised a family of seven children. He and Velma parted ways. He then met Sonja Schaeffer and they were united in marriage on June 6, 1986, at the Little Brown Church of Iowa. They made their home in Bertha, MN. Frenchie worked as a manufacturing brakeman. His leisure hours were spent outdoors where he fished, camped, golfed and rode his motorcycle. Frenchie loved having his family around him and found joy in helping others whenever he could!

Ken was preceded in death by his parents George and Antoinette; stepmother Emma O'Claire; son Mark O'Claire; great-grandchild Alivia Anntonette Hasser; and sister Cecil Cutcliffe.

He is survived by his wife Sonja; son Andrew O'Claire of Stanchfield; daughters Anntonette (Henry) Hasser of Isanti, Kimberly (Duane) Reichel of

Park Rapids, Dawn (Bill) Johnson of Mora, Stacy (Darold) Lindman of Luck, WI, and LuRinda (Steve) Johnson of Green Bay, WI; step-sons Steven Schaeffer of Buffalo, Jeffrey Schaeffer of Montevideo and Michael Schaeffer of Bertha; 16 grandchildren & 14 great-grandchildren; brother Laurel (Eva) of Grand Rapids; along with many nieces and nephews.

Honorary pallbearers will be Frenchie's grandchildren & great-grandchildren.

The family suggests memorials in lieu of flowers.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 16. 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Domian-Anderson Chapel  
309 2nd Avenue NW  
Bertha, MN 56437  
(218) 924-4000

## Service

MAY 16. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Domian-Anderson Chapel  
309 2nd Avenue NW  
Bertha, MN 56437  
(218) 924-4000

# Tribute Wall

KE

“ I remember the stories told time and time again by Aunt Doris, about that "flu-flu" and how mischievous, but also how lovable he was, as a boy.

*It was always fun when Uncle Kenny and the family would come to visit. Boy, we would have a houseful! I remember how glad I was when LuRinda was born, to have a new cousin, one who I could play with, who was younger like me.*

*I remember the first time Uncle Kenny pulled up on his purple motorcycle, he had the seat removed and a towel was in its place, so his feet could reach the ground!*

*My favorite memory of Uncle Kenny was one visit my dad and I took to the resort that he had. We had such a nice visit. I played along the water with LuRinda. I remember how much he loved his little "Rinnie". She and I were definitely our daddy's girls and we had such fun during that visit.*

*Uncle Kenny, much like my dad, never seemed to get upset or bothered by things. He was always so full of happiness and fun.*

*I will always regret not paying a visit to Uncle Kenny so that my family could know him. They would have loved him, and he would have smiled that great big ever-youthful, ear to ear smile of his.*

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**Kelly Esparza** - May 16, 2015 at 07:53 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Frenchie" O'Claire.*



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May 15, 2015 at 06:31 PM



“ *Victorian Teacup Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Frenchie" O'Claire.*



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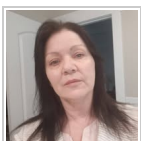
May 14, 2015 at 07:20 PM



“ *My favorite memories of Uncle Frenchie were the motorcycle rides with him and when they lived at Four Pines he would give us suckers from the store and he would always want a "candy kiss". The Cribbage games and his laugh--couldn't help but love that laugh!! Also I loved hearing the crazy stuff him and my dad did when they were kids--which weren't always legal!! LOL! He will be missed!! Thinking of Sonja and all my cousins!!*

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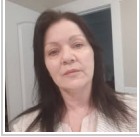
**Tina Larson** - May 14, 2015 at 05:53 PM



“ *my Dad told many funny stories of Uncle Kenny getting scolded by our Dear Aunt Doris when they were kids. He had a gift of making everyone smile and laugh, even when he was up to no good*

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**Cathryn Gonzales** - May 14, 2015 at 12:39 PM



“ *ask my Dad about drag racing with his brother New Year's Eve many years ago!*

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**Cathryn Gonzales** - May 14, 2015 at 12:27 PM