



## Kenneth James Friesen

July 14, 1949 - February 18, 2024

Kenneth James Friesen, 74, of Grand Island passed away from this earthly life to be with his Lord and Savior, Jesus on February 18, 2024, at CountryHouse Residence. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, March 16th at 11 am at the GI Free Church, with Pastor Dan Brenton officiating. Visitation will be held on Friday, March 15th from 5-7 pm at the GI Free Church Gathering Place.

Ken was born on July 14, 1949, in York to Levi H. and Elizabeth (Rempel) Friesen. He was raised and received his education in the Henderson area, graduating from Henderson High School in 1967. He then went on to Grace Bible Institute in Omaha for two years before attending Hastings Technical Institute majoring in Automotive studies.

On September 6, 1969, Ken was married to Amy Beth Smith of Dannebrog. Two children were blessed into this union, Keri and Matthew. Ken was employed by Grand Island Dodge and New Holland before he opened Ken's Auto Service in 1982. He owned and operated the automotive repair shop for 36 years until his retirement in September of 2018, when his son took over leading the company.

Ken was an active member of the Grand Island Evangelical Free Church and involved in numerous ministry groups. Ken was blessed with many talents, including playing guitar and singing. He shared his musical gifts with family and friends throughout his life in a variety of musical groups, church ministries, and community performances. Whether at the campground, the

shop, or church, Ken was well known for his caring smile and genuine greetings that welcomed neighbors and strangers alike to conversation and fellowship wherever he went.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Amy; children, Keri (Timothy) Frey of Hickman, NE, Matthew (Lindsay) Friesen of Central City, NE; six grandchildren, Ericka (Griswold, IA), Elisia, and Emilia Frey, Katelyn, Molly, and Andrew Friesen; sister, Ruth (Dale) Strasser of Rochester, MN; and brothers, Timothy (Debbie) Friesen of Bryant, AR, Lee (Valerie) Friesen of Lincoln, NE.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents.

Memorials are suggested to either Timberlake Ranch Camps, 2709 North S Rd., Marquette, NE 68854 or GI Free Church (Children's Ministries), 2609 S. Blaine St., Grand Island, NE 68801.

# Previous Events

## Public Visitation

MAR **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

GI Free Church  
2609 S Blaine St  
Grand Island, NE 68801-7310  
(308) 382-1898

## Celebration of Life Service

MAR **16**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

GI Free Church  
2609 S Blaine St  
Grand Island, NE 68801-7310  
(308) 382-1898

# Tribute Wall

JK

“ Ken was so very special to the Kort family. He had such a servant's heart. I always joked about how the church was so full of so many great musicians, yet so few volunteered to help with the children. Ken always did. I loved worshipping with him on Sunday mornings in the preschool suite as he instilled joy in so many. He once told me, he was known to extend the prayer time just to see Reagan worship. That always meant so much. We was a true outstanding servant of Christ, always gracious. Prayers to your family. We are sending a memorial to suggested charity on his behalf.

-----  
**Jessica Kort** - April 07, 2024 at 08:24 PM

FT

“ From your friends at BG&S Transmissions purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kenneth James Friesen.



-----  
**From your friends at BG&S Transmissions** - March 15, 2024 at 12:21 PM

MT

“ McCarraher family ( Snap on Tools) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kenneth James Friesen.



-----  
**McCarraher family ( Snap on Tools)** - March 13, 2024 at 07:38 PM

LB

“ Ken was a very special guy to know. I can remember him from when I was just little growing up in our business coming in with scrap to visit and always have a smile on his face! And even as I stayed here working and he continued to do business we always had time to visit. He will be missed by so many he touched a lot of people! Sending thoughts and prayers to the family during this difficult time. All of us at Kramer's Auto Parts & Iron Co

-----  
**Lisa Bartz** - March 12, 2024 at 12:18 PM

SW

“ Ken skinned many-a-knuckle loosening bolts on my car engines in his garage next to his house (that goes back a ways!). I always appreciated his calm demeanor fixing my cars' problems. He was probably happier as I “graduated” into affording better cars! I never had to doubt his honesty and judgement. A true brother in Christ. And now Matt is following some of Ken's same footsteps (without the music that I know of)! Great legacy! Thank you Ken!

-----  
**Scott Welk** - March 11, 2024 at 10:04 PM

FS

“ From Loys. Jarzinkas. Stretches purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kenneth James Friesen.



-----  
**From Loys. Jarzinkas. Stretches** - March 11, 2024 at 09:05 PM

FS

“ From Loys. Jarzinkas. Stretches planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth James Friesen.

-----  
**From Loys. Jarzinkas. Stretches** - March 11, 2024 at 09:05 PM

TF

“ *The Entire Landers Family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Kenneth James Friesen.*



---

**The Entire Landers Family** - March 08, 2024 at 10:23 PM

BR

“ *Ken was a great leader and influence on all of us who had the privilege of being in Awana with him. We are truly better off for having known him and having his positive impact.* Bradley Rice

---

**Bradley Rice** - March 05, 2024 at 01:52 PM

FT

“ *From the MAC team planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth James Friesen.*

---

**From the MAC team** - February 22, 2024 at 06:50 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Kenneth James Friesen.*



---

February 22, 2024 at 06:50 PM

LM

“ Love, Aunt Linda and Uncle Steve Marsh purchased the *Basket Full of Wishes* for the family of Kenneth James Friesen.



---

**Love, Aunt Linda and Uncle Steve Marsh** - February 22, 2024  
at 12:27 PM

CH

“ Curtis, Joanna, Jessie, Cassie Heuermann purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of Kenneth James Friesen.



---

**Curtis, Joanna, Jessie, Cassie Heuermann** - February 20,  
2024 at 02:44 PM

WL

“ Amy and family,  
*I send my love and prayers to you! Ken was a very special man, and was a great friend to Gary during battle with Alzheimer's. Ken would often stop at our house when Gary was outdoors and visit with him. We always appreciated his musical talent. I know he will be missed.*

*Willa Lemburg*

---

**Willa Lemburg** - February 19, 2024 at 07:20 PM