



Kenneth H. Koepke

August 6, 1936 - October 30, 2021

Kenneth H. Koepke, 85 of Grand Island found peace in His Heavenly home on Saturday, October 30, 2021 with his loving family by his side.

Services will be 10:30 AM Friday at Trinity Lutheran Church. Reverend Adam Snoberger will officiate. Burial will be in the Grand Island Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5-7 PM Thursday at All Faiths Funeral Home. In leu of flowers memorials are suggested to Trinity Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran School, Heartland Lutheran High School, Orphan Grain Train or donors' choice.

Ken was born 8-6-1936 in Blue Hill to Harold J. and Eda (VanBoening) Koepke. He attended Trinity Lutheran School in Blue Hill through the 8th grade and graduated from Blue Hill High School with the class of 1954. He was a member of the basketball team that won the 1954 Webster County area BB tournament of which there were 8 teams at that time. Ken was baptized (8-16-36) and confirmed (4-2-1950) at Trinity Lutheran. His confirmation verse was II Timothy 3-14, "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it." Ken was always thankful for the faithful teaching of his parents and grandparents. He served in the US Army from 1956 to 1958 and In the Army Reserves for 10 years.

Ken began his working career by driving for L.J. Vontz, Pick-Pack Haulers of Blue Hill and then Hastings Concrete as an independent contractor. Ken married Gerry Black of Grand Island on 9-19-1959. They bought the Blue Hill

Cleaners and Laundromat and moved to Blue Hill. He began his ag-sales career while in Blue Hill and was territory manager for Northrup King and then took a position with Garst and Thomas/Pioneer Seed which led the family to O'Neill in 1979. Ken was a people person and loved to talk with his customers and friends and really never knew a stranger. Ken worked hard his entire life, passing on to his children his work ethic, the importance of a grounded faith in Jesus Christ and the love of family. His fervent prayer was for his heirs to follow the way of the Lord Jesus Christ. At his death his prayers have been answered. He was a life-long member of LCMS churches and served on many boards in each of the different congregations. He and Gerry have been members of Trinity Lutheran Church since moving to Grand Island in 1989. He also has been a member of the Platte Duetsch and Saddle Club.

Ken was a good handyman and could fix most anything and hated to admit it when he couldn't. Ken retired in 2005 from Moews Seed sales. He liked to keep Kuester Lake area looking it's best and worked each summer to fulfill that desire. He also volunteered at Orphan Grain Train for many years. He was a good cook and planned many a menu for family gatherings.

His family was of utmost importance to him and he loved having the grandkids and great grands visit whenever possible. He loved clearing ice so they could ice skate, took many a kid on boat rides and tube rides, walks in the pasture to discover "the new world" ...whatever was over the next hill. He could hardly wait for the meal to be over to get the gang on some kind of adventure. His grandkids can tell many stories of adventures with Grandpa.

Ken is survived by his wife Gerry of 62 years, three children and their families: Michelle "Shelly" (Rob) Thomas of Grand Island, Kelly (Dr. Todd) Hedlund of Lincoln and Bill (Lori) Koepke of Lincoln. Grandchildren: Jeff (Abby) Thomas, Brett (Bekkah) Thomas, Alyssa (John) Bauer, Aaron (Katie) Hedlund, Cassie (Michael) Mahnken, Payton Hedlund, Mackenzie Koepke and Ben Koepke. Great grandchildren: Ryker and Kenley Thomas, Leah Bauer, Emma and Hannah Thomas, Jones and Allie Hedlund and Maddox Mahnken. A sister Lamira Karsting and many nieces and nephews and a ton of cousins.

Ken and Gerry were Godparents for Gail Karsting Kohtz, Kim Alber, Debbie Enninga Streff, Philip Karsting and John Koepke.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, brother Byron, brother-in-law Dean Karsting and a sister-in-law Erline Black and his in-laws Roy and Elva Black, whom he never had the privilege of knowing.

Cemetery Details

Grand Island City Cemetery

Grand Island, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home
2929 S Locust St
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 398-2929
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

Service

NOV 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church
Grand Island, NE

Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth H. Koepke*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Gerry and family,
I was so saddened to hear of Ken's passing. Such a nice man who lived his faith. Please know that I'm thinking of you all and pray God will comfort you at this difficult time. Sharon Larson*

Sharon Larson - November 03, 2021 at 08:05 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth H. Koepke.*



November 02, 2021 at 06:30 AM



“ *Ken has been a role model for many not only as a husband and father but always a spiritual leader and a friend. He and his wife Geraldine were a fantastic couple who have served in every aspect of their lives together a match that could of only be made in heaven. His family and all that have known him will miss that smile dearly as now he smiles from heaven. Blessings and prayers for the loving family he has left to cherish his memory ❤️*

Kailyn Paige - November 01, 2021 at 08:35 PM

DM

“ Ken was one of the kindest, most generous and loving people we've ever known. He was a true friend and will be sorely missed. We know he is now in Heaven with his Lord and Savior. Our deepest sympathy to you, Gerry, and your family. We love you. Bobby & Diane Mettenbrink

Diane Mettenbrink - October 31, 2021 at 11:21 PM

BW

“ I loved Ken Koepke!!! If I could model my life after someone, Kenny would be my model. Thanks for being my Nebraska family. Brad Watts

Brad Watts - October 31, 2021 at 08:50 PM

JE

“ I know this is not easy, Gerry. I also know you believe in life and death, as a reward. Keith and I were so blessed to have a life of friendship with you both, from the time we met and now as you and I carry on without our Guys! I'm sure they greeted each other with lots of smiles and "slaps on each other's backs" and said they were glad they have time to be together again! Love you Gerry and I will be here, when you need a extra friend! Kids, I don't know you personally, but your Dad and Mom are some of the best. Hold each other tight forever. We will all live until our forever, is over, on earth. Then we will really live FOREVER!
KEN, THIS WAS FROM JUDY, NOT JANICE!!!

Judy Edmonds - October 31, 2021 at 06:26 PM