



## Kenneth E. Kuehner

May 23, 1939 - November 30, 2023

Kenneth Eugene Kuehner Sr, 84, of Marquette, NE, passed away at home surrounded by his family on November 30, 2023. Funeral services will be held on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Heartland Evangelical Free Church in Central City. Visitation will be on Sunday, December 3, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Solt-Wagner Funeral Home, Central City, NE. Interment will be at Phillips Cemetery, Phillips, NE on Monday at 3:00 p.m. Donations are suggested to Phillips Cemetery, Sportsman's Gun Club, or a future memorial. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.soltwagnerfuneral.com](http://www.soltwagnerfuneral.com).

Ken was born May 23, 1939, in Doniphan, Nebraska, to Oscar W. and Leona Kuehner. His father was killed in a farm accident when he was three years old, and his mother passed away from cancer when he was five years old. In his early years, he was raised on the farm by his aunt and uncle, Ernest and Marie Kuehner. Later, he was raised by his aunt and uncle, Frank and Leona Peterson. He attended Districts 19 and 32 and, at 16, graduated from Grand Island Senior High School in 1956.

At 17, Ken joined the United States Navy as a Kitty Cruiser. He served aboard a destroyer escort, the USS Howard D. Crow, as Engineman 2nd class.

While stationed in Galveston, TX, he met the love of his life, Robbie. Ken and Robbie married in Galveston, TX, on April 30, 1960. They made their first

home in Galveston, eventually moving to Pasadena, TX, and moved the family home to Nebraska in 1975.

The couple had three children: Kenneth Jr, Janet, and Donna.

Ken's natural talent for solving problems made him a successful technician for Sears. After retiring from Sears, he co-owned and managed Home Care and Companions with his wife, Robbie. In 2010, Ken and Robbie left the business to pursue a lifelong dream, traveling to Alaska and wintering at Trophy Gardens, Alamo, TX.

Ken had a talent for fixing, building, or inventing things. As a young father, he put all his efforts into providing the best life for his family. "Buy used, fix it up, and never call the man" was his motto. After the kids were grown and with Robbie's persuasion, he began exploring interests of his own: barbequing and cooking, trapshooting, car restoration, stained glass, and wood carving. He never kept his talents to himself, sharing tools and tips and helping teach others new to the craft.

Ken was an active member of Messiah Lutheran Church in Grand Island. After moving to Central City, he worshipped at Grace Lutheran Church and Heartland Evangelical Church.

Ken will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend. He will live on in the hearts of all those who loved him.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, Oscar W. and Leona Kuehner; Margie (Melvin) Beck; brother, Jerry (Marg) Kuehner; Ernest and Marie Kuehner and Frank and Leona Peterson and is survived by his wife of 63 years, Robbie, son Kenneth (Becky) Kuehner Jr., daughter Janet (Troy) Cordle, and daughter Donna (Dan) Kruse. He is also survived by seven grandchildren: Perry (Elizabeth) Schutz; Kaitlin (Neil) Hahn; Jessica (Mia) Stratton; Levi (Jordan) Schutz; Kaycee (Nick) Kuehner; Madeline (Kyle)

Schutz and Cole Kruse.

# Cemetery Details

## Phillips Cemetery

Phillips, NE

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 3. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Solt-Wagner Funeral Home  
1507 17th St.  
Central City, NE 68826  
(308) 946-3303  
soltwagnerfuneral@gmail.com  
<https://www.wagnerfuneral.com/>

## Funeral Service

DEC 4. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Heartland Evangelical Free Church  
Central City, NE

## Burial

DEC 4. 3:00 PM - 3:30 PM.

Phillips Cemetery  
Phillips, NE



# Tribute Wall

JB

“ Sorry for your loss of one of kindest, good hearted soles of a person. Ken (and Robbie!!) was a huge inspiration to a young pup fresh out of school trying to figure out what to do in life! His talent and ability to do pretty much anything and everything was an inspiration for me and I am sure to many others.

Jay Blattner - December 05, 2023 at 09:16 AM

TG

“ May Mr. Kenneth rest in peace and love eternally. We say SORRY to his family. We send our condolences and love to our teacher Janet on behalf of Alma, Getzari, Angel, Maria, Christopher, Teresa and her family.



Teresa Guzman - December 03, 2023 at 02:58 PM

JF

“ On behalf of Kirsten, Amanda, Lauren and myself; so sorry for the loss of such a good man. The fond memories of Uncle Kenny will always stay with us. Love Jeri and girls



Jeri Fissel - December 03, 2023 at 12:40 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kenneth E. Kuehner.*



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December 02, 2023 at 06:58 AM



“ *I did handyman work for Ken & Robbie for several years. I regret that I didn't stay in contact with them more after I was unable to continue helping them. Ken was a one-of-a-kind guy. I never knew a man who knew more about mechanical things. I swear he could go through a scrap iron pile and build a bicycle that worked. He shared a lot of his brand of genius with me. He was easy going and easy to like. Robbie, dear lady friend, you have joined a club to which no one wants to belong. Part of you has departed but the memories can sustain you. You and yours have my heart felt sympathies and sincere wishes for healing.*

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**Barry Marsh** - December 01, 2023 at 10:25 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth E. Kuehner.*



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December 01, 2023 at 07:38 PM

PS

“ Hey Grandpa! I will forever be grateful for all of the lessons you have taught me. Everything I have learned has shaped me into the man I am today. I will spend the rest of my life trying to fill your shoes. I admire how strong you were until the very end. You truly were an incredible man that built so much from absolutely nothing.

We are all beyond fortunate to have had you with us for as long as we did, and now it's time to say goodbye.

Maybe if I was driving a Ford I would have made it in time to say in person, but I know it was your time to go. I am so happy for you to be with your parents and Bill again.

See you on the other side Grandpa.



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**Perry Schutz** - December 01, 2023 at 07:26 PM

PS

Hey Grandpa! I will forever be grateful for all of the lessons you have taught me. Everything I have learned has shaped me into the man I am today. I will spend the rest of my life trying to fill your shoes. I admire how strong you were until the very end. You truly were an incredible man that built so much from absolutely nothing.

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See you on the other side Grandpa.

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**Perry Schutz** - December 01, 2023 at 07:27 PM

PC

*Ken was a wonderful person with a great sense of humor! Robbie took great care of him and you could see the love between them! Say hello to my hubby, Charlie, for me. Love you guys!*

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**Peggy Carnes** - December 01, 2023 at 08:47 PM

RO

*We are so happy to have had Ken in our life his kindness, his smile always present. He enriched our circle of life, and we will be forever grateful.*

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**Randal and Penny Olds** - December 02, 2023 at 07:08 AM



### *Thank you Dad*

- *Thank you for giving me half of my DNA*
- *Thank you for letting me stay home with you on Mondays (your day off) instead of sending me to daycare.*
- *Thank you for taking me to places like Red Rooster, hardware stores and junk yards.*
- *Thank you for biting the carrots we left for the Easter bunny so I had proof he had been there.*
- *Thank you for singing, “Beautiful, Beautiful Brown Eyes” and changing the lyrics to, “Beautiful, beautiful Green Eyes.” Even through that not the way the song goes.*
- *Thank you for letting me be your ‘little mechanic and letting me watch while you restored that old lawn tractor. I had so many questions.*
- *Thank you for teaching me how repair things.*
- *Thank you for not assuming that daughters/girls couldn’t or didn’t want to know ‘how things work’*
- *Thank you for quiet times on the patio listening to the rain on the corrugated tin roof. When I’m caught in the machine shed and it’s raining, I think of you.*
- *Thank you for tying the tie on my Brownies uniform.*
- *Thank you for going to my silly Girl Scout ‘Hoedowns and father/daughter teas.*
- *Thank you for letting me stay up and watch Johnny Carson while I rubbed Tegrin ointment on your back. See, that’s how you fostered my love of nursing.*
- *Thank you for homemade toys (romper stompers, stilts, wooden guns and a paddle for wiffle ball for my PE class).*
- *Thank you for coming to my school to watch the homemade kites we made. Thank for MacGyver-ing (fixing) my kite when it broke on its maiden voyage.*
- *Thank you for taking me to car shows and swap meets and car races.*
- *Thank you for teaching me to trap shoot, reload shotgun shells and for cleaning my gun. There were not many girl trapshooters but you didn’t care.*
- *Thank you for taking me hunting and then being okay when I just couldn’t shoot the animals. Thank you for letting me be your hunting dog, flushing out birds in front of you. That was fun and I never told mom, just like you told me.*
- *Thank you for teaching me to drive a stick shift car.*
- *Thank for not getting too mad when you and Larry Holtz saw me speeding fast enough in my little red truck that I got air. Tell the truth, you were a little impressed.*
- *Thank you tell me you were proud of me during that ice storm, when I was home alone and put the studded tires on all by myself and went to work*
- *Thank you for not getting mad at me when my car caught on fire in Dan’s cornfield during harvest.*

- *Thank you for getting my deposit back from my jerk of a landlord.*
  - *Thank you for teaching me to know the value of a quiet young man with a fast car. Dad, you have been the measure I have judged all other men by.*
  - *Thank you for walking me down the aisle. I was so scared, anxious and must of all excited and Thank You for whispering, "You'll always be my little girl.' You hugged me tight, shook Dan's hand and then putting his hands in mine.*
  - *Thank you for loving the man I married. For treating him with respect. For treating him like a son and teaching him to be an even better man.*
  - *Thank you for buying our first air conditioner. Mom was certain if we didn't get some relief from the sweltering heat that we would never conceive your grandkids. (She was right!)*
  - *Thank you for helping us remodel the upstairs when we were expecting Kaitlin.*
  - *Thank you for all the times you for diagnosed our appliances, home repair mishaps and automobile.*
- To be continued.....*

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**Donna Kruse** - December 02, 2023 at 02:42 PM



- *Thank you for talking me through many recipes-soup, barbecue, gravy, etc..... over the phone.*
- *Thank you for watching our children. You gave us some much needed support.*
- *Thanks for the lake (and life jackets), nature walks and teaching them that fun times like that are earning through chores.*
- *Thank you for making all your grand kids as close as siblings. I feel a tremendous amount of joy and pride watching them all together.*
- *Thanks for teaching my kids about cooking*
- *Thank for teaching Cole how to trap shoot, how to clean his gun and how to be safe around guns.*
- *Thank you for spending hours watching the History Channel with Cole. He enjoyed the conversation related to what you guys watched. He has an excellent grasp of history and world event because you took the time.*
- *Thank you for being Google before there was internet. I can't tell you how many conversations started with, "Lets ask Dad."*
- *Thank you for helping us instill in our children good values, kindness and creativity.*
- *Thank you for making their Homecoming, Winter Balls, Proms and weddings extra special by loaning them your beautiful cars.*
- *Thank you for holidays, birthdays and fireworks displays.*
- *You have given me so many reasons to be grateful. More than I can count. Most of all I am grateful to call you my dad.*

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**Donna Kruse** - December 02, 2023 at 02:45 PM

SV

*Sending my sympathies to the Kuehner family.*

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**Sarah Kuehner Vitt** - December 03, 2023 at 05:47 PM

RS

*We are so sorry to hear about losing Ken. Ken was a great guy who was always there to help anyone in the neighborhood. The neighborhood was never the same when you moved. Our prayers are for you and your family.*

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**Rick & Cathy Sekora** - December 08, 2023 at 09:17 AM



*Dear Dad,*

*We missed you. We're all taking good care of mom. Dan and I drove her down to Texas for the winter as you asked. Janet and Troy stayed down there with her in their RV for a 6 or 8 weeks. Mom came back early but I'm glad she got through her first winter with her daughters by her side. The memorial service for all the Trophy Gardens winter Texans that passed away during the summer was nice.*

*Benny started walking shortly after you passed away. He is both fast and naughty. But when he flashes those baby blue eyes, our hearts melt. Theo is growing so fast. He loves school. When he, River and Kenneth get together they form a little pack. They're pretty tight. Lucy is finally warming up to me. I can't wait to see baby Elenor. I bet she has grown.*

*We had Kaycee's Redneck couple shower. It was so flippin' hot and then the wind went still. The great-grandkids enjoyed the 10 foot splash pad but by dinner we all had had enough and ate in the house. Kaycee is so excited about the wedding. Becky and I are doing her flowers. Mom had a rough patch in the Spring. Your 64th wedding anniversary was April 30, your birthday May 23rd and then Memorial weekend was shortly after that.*

*There were a lot of bittersweet emotions flow during those times. Mom kept busy in her garden and enjoyed her great grandchildren. I remember growing up you and mom told us you would prefer us to sit down and have a picnic lunch instead of bringing flowers and crying. I planned a picnic at the cemetery on Memorial Day. We sat on a blanket and talked about our lives, our families and especially you. There were a few passersby that showed down and stared. I just smile real big and waved at them. We also found your favorite dark red peonies and we'll plant them in the Fall. -Continue next page*

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**Donna Kruse** - July 24, 2024 at 02:54 AM



*Dan, the kids and I took both the 1947 Hooptie and the 1956 Studebaker truck to Kearney Cruise week. We went on the night that there was a tour of all the nursing homes. We drove by each and waved. They really, really liked the ahooga horn. Dan and I were in the truck and Cole and Kaitlin were in the '47. At first Cole was a little shy about pushing the horn but once he saw how excited the residents were, he didn't hesitate. We drove the '47 to my 40th school reunion Saturday morning event. Everyone loved it. We had planned to drive the truck to the evening event but it was stormy/rainy. Dan and I are determined to drive those vehicles as much as possible. It's our way of saying how much they mean to us both. We would like to take the '47 on a Route 66 driving tour and trailer/drive the Studebaker truck to see the Studebaker museum in Indiana with Jan and Troy. Dan and I promised you we'd get Ken Jr's 1950 Studebaker bullet nose up and running. We brought it out to the farm. Ken and Dan work on it when they can. Kaycee and Nick picked the '56 Studebaker as their wedding vehicle! There should be some good pictures. I wished we would have taped you talking about the history of the your cars.*

*Anyway. I just wanted to catch you up on things. Nana is still tiny and her balance (she is deconditioned) is poor. The doctor has her seeing a Physical Therapist for balance and reconditioning. She loves poking around in her flower beds. Dan and I are doing fine (but I fell and fractured a foot bone). I'm back to work and everything is fine. Dan got a new Grasshopper mower and our lawn looks great. Neill and Kaitlin are getting ready for school to start. She loves teaching high school art. Cole is still repairing/painting damaged train cars. Sadie passed away last Fall and our new border collie is a ball of energy. Peekaboo and Stella are the same-spoiled rotten. At every family gathering, when we hold hands, pray and talk about our blessings, you are always the top blessing on everyone's list. I love you dad. Say 'Hi' to your mom, dad, Aunt Margie and John. I wish I could have met your parents.*

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**Donna Kruse** - July 24, 2024 at 03:40 AM