



Kenneth "Ken" F. Dahmen

March 12, 1942 - May 25, 2024

Kenneth "Ken" F. Dahmen, 82-year-old resident of Pierz, MN passed away Saturday, May 25, 2024 in Pierz. Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11:00 A.M. on Monday, June 3, 2024 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierz with Father Kenneth Popp and Father Aaron Nett officiating. Burial will take place in the Parish Cemetery. Visitation will be from 4 to 8 P.M. on Sunday, June 2, 2024 and 9 to 11 A.M. Monday, June 3, all at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierz. Caring for Ken and his family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel in Pierz, MN.

Ken was born on March 12, 1942 in Buh Township to the late Michael and Angeline (Happke) Dahmen. He attended Pierz Memorial High School and graduated in 1960. Ken and Janet (Kasella) were married on October 18, 1965 at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Royalton. They started their life in Pierz where they remained for the next 58 1/2 years. Ken began hauling milk for Gerhard Boser in 1965 and then drove for Standard Oil Company. In 1968, they purchased Ken & Jan's Red Owl, later changing the name to Ken & Jan's Super Valu. They owned and operated the grocery store until May of 1994. Ken perfected the art of BS-ing with his customers, running circles around younger employees with his endless energy and "get stuff done" attitude. Ken learned to make a mean fruit basket during the Christmas season. He did not enjoy fixing the freezers or the other mechanical issues that came up. He had dreams into his 70's about the compressor on the freezer going out in the

middle of the night. After selling the grocery store, Ken became the custodian at St. Joseph's Parish in July of 1994. He spent hours remodeling, refinishing and cleaning the church. If 5 snowflakes fell overnight, Kenny would be up by 5 AM, making sure the sidewalks were clear for morning mass. In addition to owning Super Valu and working at St. Joseph's, Ken drove school bus for over 40 years. He would often say, "That is my favorite time of the day." He was known for his strict rules but also his kind heart. He would give kids a ride down their long driveway so they wouldn't have to walk in the dark or in the cold. He made many friends on the bus over the years and loved what he did. Ken loved to be busy. Whether it was mowing his lawn, the neighbor's lawns, shoveling snow, shoveling the neighbor's snow, fishing, having coffee with the guys at the ALC (Hartmann's) each morning, playing cards, volunteering with the Pierz Area Senior Center, Pierz Food Shelf, and Pierz Commercial Club while being a business owner, he was the "Energizer Bunny." He was a member of the Pierz Fire Department, Knights of Columbus, St. Joseph's Adult Choir and Pierz Lion's Club. Ken enjoyed snowmobiling with the Pierz and St. Joe Snowmobile Clubs. Ken also loved polka music and polka dancing. He loved to turn it up so everyone else could hear the music, even if they didn't want to. He just assumed everyone loved polka music! He especially loved hearing his son, Dale, play the concertina. Later, he enjoyed listening to Dale's sons, Dominick and Samuel, when they joined The Polka Beats. He and Jan were instrumental in starting the Heartland Polka Swingers in 1976. They spent countless hours dancing, laughing and having a good time. Through music, they met so many amazing, lifelong friends. Many fun times were had, especially at "The Gibbon Polka Fest" which was often referred to by Ken and Jan as "a National Holiday". Ken loved to be with his family, especially at Pierz Fish Lake. He loved fishing and teaching his grandkids how to fish and how to filet a fish. He enjoyed bonfires and was a great supporter of Grain Belt. Ken also loved to attend his kids' and grandkids' sporting events, loved to hear Dale and The Polka Beats play old-time music and loved to travel. Ken and Jan enjoyed many trips around the state and

beyond. Ken was always there to lend a helping hand to a friend or anyone in the community. Ken loved to laugh and loved to make others laugh. His silly “Kenny-isms” will live on forever as we fondly remember the life lessons in each of those sayings. Ken was one of a kind and will be missed by many.

Ken is survived by his loving wife, Jan of 58 years; his son, Dean Dahmen (Allison) of Foley, MN; his daughter, Denise Lowe (Jeff) of Corcoran, MN; his daughter-in-law, Sherry Dahmen of Buffalo, MN and grandchildren, Samuel, Daniel, Derek, Donny, Avery and Dawson, and his brother, Brian Dahmen.

He was preceded in death by his son, Dale; grandson, Dominick; parents, Michael and Angeline; sister, Judy Herman; and infant brother, Donald.

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to family, friends, neighbors, community members, the Pierz Police Department and the Pierz First Responders.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph's Cemetery

Pierz, MN

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
68 North Main Street
Pierz, MN

Visitation

JUN 3. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
68 North Main Street
Pierz, MN

Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
68 North Main Street
Pierz, MN

Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth "Ken" F. Dahmen*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - May 31, 2024 at 05:16 PM

TT

“ *Tate And Kathi Tetrick sent a virtual gift in memory of Kenneth "Ken" F. Dahmen*



Tate and Kathi Tetrick - June 04, 2024 at 09:56 PM

MP

“ *In all the times we chatted what I remember is that all his words were kind. I will be praying for him and for Jan and the family. --- Michael Pekar*

Michael Pekar - June 02, 2024 at 08:22 PM

BE

“ *Becky Essery lit a candle in memory of Kenneth "Ken" F. Dahmen*



Becky Essery - June 02, 2024 at 03:33 PM

RS

“ *Our deepest sympathies, & condolences thoughts and prayers to Jan & the family in the loss of Kenneth. The world lost a great & wonderful man, friend, husband, father, grandfather, an all together a great family man. Ken was one of a kind, great gentle man to all who he knew a met. A very up beat personality, always positive, willing to help out or lend a helping hand. An a great heart for living. I met Kenny back on the early 70's . I work with Kenny to help out with project with the church, cemetery, lawn care. He had more patience an kindness then any one could ever ask for. Kenny will be deeply & sadly missed by all who knew him. May God pour down all his wonderful blessings to Jan an the entire family. God bless you all. May Kenny rest in eternal peace with our Heavenly Father in heaven. God's grace, love, mercy, peace, be with the family in this great loss.*

Richard R. Schneider - June 01, 2024 at 02:10 PM

DK

“ *Jan & family, I attended St. Michaels grade school and then 4 years at Memorial High the same class as Ken. Jim is a cousin to Jan on the family tree somewhere. We would see the two of you at a bazaar where Dale would be playing his music or even see Ken when driving school kids for sports to Foley once in a while. He was definitely one of the good guys and will be missed by many. Our deepest sympathy to the whole family. Darlene & Jim Kieffer*

Darlene Kieffer - May 31, 2024 at 04:03 PM

JA

“ Jason, Angie, Sophia, and Jack Abfalter purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Kenneth "Ken" F. Dahmen.



Jason, Angie, Sophia, and Jack Abfalter - May 31, 2024 at 02:57 PM

BE

“ Ken was probably the first person way back in 1974, that welcomed me to Pierz. His kindness made me feel like it was home. Always a cheerful welcome at "Ken and Jan's" store. Ken always had a positive remark, with a twinkle in his eye, that would give me a lift. He was a gem. My sincere thoughts and sympathy to all the Dahmens. Bev Gold

Bev - May 31, 2024 at 09:32 AM

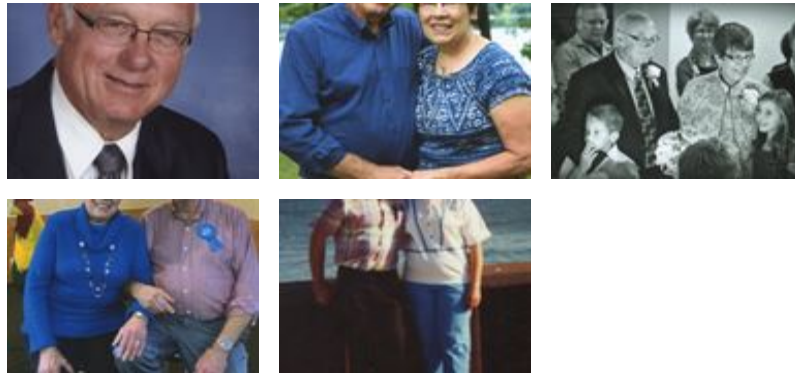
 Larry Emerson

“ Our condolences to the entire Dahmen family. Ken was such a special guy who could always bring a smile to our face. He will be dearly missed by all who knew him. RIP Ken. Prayers for the family.

Larry Emerson - May 30, 2024 at 04:28 PM



“ 104 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Lemieur Funeral Homes - May 30, 2024 at 12:02 PM

DR

“ *Our deepest condolences to the family* ❤️



Dustin and Lori Robinson - May 29, 2024 at 10:18 PM

KF

“ *My husband Don and I owned the Super Valu in Little Falls from 1978 to 1989. Don got to know Ken thru the business and a fishing trip they took to the Northwest Territories. Don always talked about the fun of knowing Ken. Don passed in 2021. I hope they are comparing fishing stories at that big lake in the sky!!
Peace to all his family.
Kathi Franciscus*

Kathi Franciscus - May 29, 2024 at 07:24 PM

MD

“ His last visit to Michigan with Jan and his sister Judy. Reminiscing about our visits during the summer to Uncle Mike’s farm. Where Ken taught me the difference between plowing and cultivating to a city slicker like me was amazing to a four year old at that time. Due to everytime he would go out on the tractor I would ask him you going plowing he’d answer me no going cultivating. I posted the pictures from their visit to Michigan. With the Dahmens & Malloys



Mike Dahmen - May 29, 2024 at 06:56 PM

RM

“ Rick & Judy Meyer sent a virtual gift in memory of Kenneth "Ken" F. Dahmen



Rick & Judy Meyer - May 29, 2024 at 02:55 PM

DS

“ I remember Ken when he was at Ken & Jan’s when I was in High School! What a friendly guy!! RIP Ken.

Doris (Hoheisel) Sorensen - May 29, 2024 at 02:35 PM

CB

“ My condolences to Ken's family.



correna becker - May 29, 2024 at 08:05 AM

MN

“ Much love to you all! He will be missed! I'll always remember his gentle eyes and contagious smile. ❤️

Mandy Niemeyer - May 28, 2024 at 10:50 PM

TN

“ Theresa (Otremba) And Gene Nelson lit a candle in memory of Kenneth "Ken" F. Dahmen



Theresa (Otremba) and Gene Nelson - May 28, 2024 at 09:49 PM

MB

“ We had a lota fun had a room at the place in new ulm,he was alota fun,he will b missed.G bless u Ken.thoughts and prayers to jan and family

Mary BZecker - May 28, 2024 at 09:19 PM

RP

“ *Kenny was a good man who will be dearly missed by everyone who knew him. Our kids remember him bringing them home after sports on the activities bus and always enjoyed visiting with him as well. Deepest sympathy to the Dahmen family during this sad time. Joe and Rosi Przybilla and family.*

Rosi and Joe Przybilla - May 28, 2024 at 07:37 PM

AV

Our Dear Kenny! So many stories and memories with you! We are sure gonna miss you! Big hugs to you dear friend! Thank you for the memories!❤️

Anna Vait - May 28, 2024 at 08:11 PM

KF

Ken was a great employer he taught me a lot! My deepest sympathy to his whole family!

Kathy Faust - May 28, 2024 at 09:18 PM

KT

“ *RIP Ken. Ken and my Dad drove bus together for Pierz school, and after dad's passing, Ken was so kind to my mom. Prayers to Jan and Dean and the rest of the family.*



Kelly Voltin Thomsen - May 28, 2024 at 07:32 PM

GB

“ I came to know Ken and his wife Jan through their son Dale. Ken loved the concertina and got Dale his first for him to learn how to play. Later on Ken got Dale his Hengel's concertina and he played it fantastic!! Ken and Jan were so proud of how Dale played as I watched them dance by the stage as we played many gigs. I played tuba with Dale's band almost 23.years! Ken was a gentleman, a fun individual, a Christian man, and a dear friend. Ken will be greatly missed.

Rest in peace my friend!

Gary Baggenstoss

Gary Baggenstoss - May 28, 2024 at 06:19 PM