



## Ralph A. Kjeldergaard

September 26, 1951 - August 30, 2021

Ralph A. Kjeldergaard, 69 year old resident of rural Long Prairie, MN passed away Monday, August 30, 2021 at his home. A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 AM on Friday, September 3, 2021, at St. John's Catholic Church in Swanville, MN with Father Ron Dockendorf officiating. Burial will be in the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery north of Little Falls. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 PM on Thursday and from 9 to 10 AM on Friday both at the St. John's Catholic Church in Swanville. Military Rites will be conducted by Swanville American Legion Post #313 and the Randall VFW Post 9073. Caring for Ralph and his family is the Shelley Funeral Chapel of Swanville, MN.

Ralph Aaron Kjeldergaard was born on September 26, 1951 in Little Falls, MN to the late Eliot and Elsie (Gregersen) Kjeldergaard. He grew up in Cushing and attended grade school at Dr. S.G. Knight in Randall and high school in Little Falls. He enlisted in the Army his senior year and served from 1970-1972. He was stationed in Vietnam and later in Germany. While he was back home on leave, he met his sweetheart, Debra Borchert on a blind date. While stationed in Germany he proposed, and the two got married on March 17, 1973. They resided in the Long Prairie area ever since their marriage. Ralph went to work at Grey Eagle Oil as a mechanic. He later worked for Isensee Bus service as a mechanic and bus driver and did car sales at Clayt Wells Quality Cars for a while as well. In 1986 he started KJ's Repair and ran the shop until 1998 when he retired due to health issues. After retirement from the

shop, he worked for Auto Value in Long Prairie and drove road grader for Bruce Township. Ralph enjoyed hunting, fishing, farming, and he was constantly working on various projects. The thing he loved the most was spending time with his grandchildren. He will be remembered for his work ethic and determination, never letting the health problems keep him down.

Ralph is survived by his wife, Debra of 48 years; 3 children, Ann (David) Koetter of Swanville, Aaron (Jessica) Kjeldergaard of Foley, Aric (Amanda) Kjeldergaard of Cushing; 8 grandchildren; siblings, Terri Holmgren of Fairborn, Ohio, Nelda (Tom) Martinson of Little Falls, Kathy (Greg) Hyatt of Pierz, Wally Kjeldergaard of Cushing, Steve Kjeldergaard of Rochester, and Dennis Kjeldergaard of St. Cloud.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, Eliot and Elsie Kjeldergaard; sisters, Connie Nelson, Daryel Karjala, and Rose Bollin; and brother, Melvin Kjeldergaard.

# Cemetery Details

## Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery

15550 Highway 115  
Little Falls, MN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN

## Visitation

SEP 3. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN

## Mass of Christian Burial

SEP 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. John's Catholic Church - Swanville  
12 First Street  
Swanville, MN



# Tribute Wall



“ *Lemieur Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Ralph A. Kjeldergaard*



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**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - September 01, 2021 at 01:53 PM



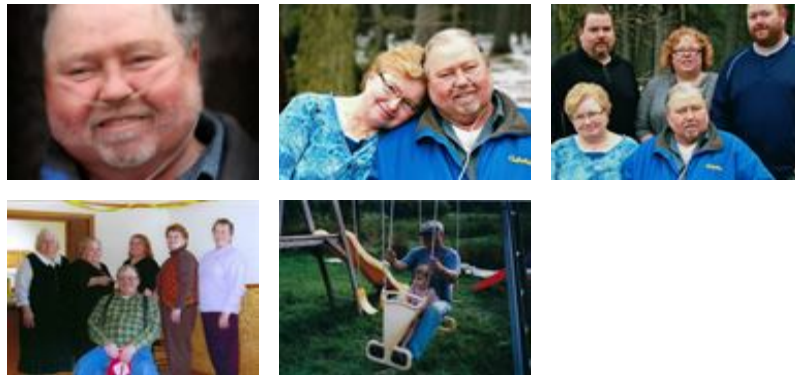
“ *Ralph A. Kjeldergaard*

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January 21, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ *55 files added to the album Life Tributes*



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**Lemieur Funeral Homes** - September 01, 2021 at 01:51 PM

CF

“ *Catapult Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ralph A. Kjeldergaard.*



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**Catapult Family** - September 01, 2021 at 10:02 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ralph A. Kjeldergaard.*



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August 31, 2021 at 10:42 PM

JT

“ *Dear Aric & Family,  
We are so sorry for your loss - cherish the memories!*

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**Jeff & Deb Tschida** - August 31, 2021 at 05:27 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Ralph A. Kjeldergaard.*



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August 31, 2021 at 01:57 PM

SH

“ *Ralph and Debbie my cousin that I grew up with, every Sunday our family would go to uncle Raymond's, Debbie's would go and play horseshoe and us kids would play on the farm. With Uncle Raymond and Aunt Deloris such good times and memories. Sorry for your loss. God gained another angel 🙏*

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**Sheila** - August 30, 2021 at 08:30 PM