



## Kenneth W. Gerdes

March 6, 1950 - July 31, 2020

Kenneth W. Gerdes, age 70 years, a resident of rural Simpson, Illinois, passed away unexpectedly Friday morning, July 31, 2020, at 11:05 AM at his home.

Ken was born March 6, 1950 in Carmi, Illinois. He was the youngest of four children born to Gerald “Depo” Gerdes and Mary (Collins) Gerdes.

On September 19, 1982, Ken was united in marriage to Carol (Jackson) Gerdes in Carmi, Illinois. She survives.

Ken is also survived by: his daughter – Megan Michelle Gerdes of Canton, Georgia; 2 brothers – William (Lynn) Gerdes of Birmingham, Alabama and James (Marie) Gerdes of Richmond, Virginia; a sister – Carol Faulkner of Carmi, Illinois; a sister-in-law – Pamela Gerdes of Birmingham, Alabama; his beloved pet “Billy Bob” as well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other relatives, and many friends.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents.

Ken was a 1968 graduate of Carmi High School. He earned a Bachelors Degree in Forestry from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Following his graduation from SIU, Ken worked as a manager of a condominium in

Aspen, Colorado. He also worked in the construction trade. Ken and Carol moved to Johnson County in 1983. He was employed by the U.S.D.A. as the Johnson County Executive Director of Farm Services, a position which he held for 31 years prior to his retirement. Following his retirement from the U.S.D.A., Ken worked as a crop insurance adjuster for A.D.M. (Archer Daniels Midland) for 3 years.

Ken was of the Protestant faith. He had a deep love for his family and cherished time spent with them. Ken was an avid outdoorsman. He loved hiking, fishing, deer hunting, snow skiing, and camping. Additionally, Ken was a gifted artisan and enjoyed painting and making craft items. He enjoyed playing his guitar and particularly enjoyed listening to bluegrass and folk music.

A tribute to the life of Kenneth W. Gerdes will be held at a later date which will be announced.

Memorials may be made to establish a scholarship at Vienna High School which will be given to an FFA student or an art student. Memorials may be sent in care of Bailey Funeral Home, P.O. Box 695, Vienna, IL 62995. The Gerdes family feels strongly that Ken would want to “give back” to the community which has been their home for 37 years.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth W. Gerdes*

January 30, 2023 at 12:19 AM



“ *Larry & Kim Vaughn lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



**Larry & Kim Vaughn** - August 12, 2020 at 01:53 PM



“ *Bobby Rentfro lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



**Bobby Rentfro** - August 06, 2020 at 07:21 AM



“ *My sincere sympathy, love & prayers.*

**Kathy Holt** - August 04, 2020 at 03:06 PM



“ *Ken was a roommate of mine at SIU for a couple of years we had a good time , he came with me to Oregon to visit my dad in the early 70's. to soon for him to be gone. To all of his family he will be missed !*

**sam briscoe** - August 03, 2020 at 09:47 PM

SG

“ *Samantha Garza lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



Samantha Garza - August 03, 2020 at 10:54 AM

SG

“ *I'm so sorry to hear of Mr. Gerdes' passing. He was such a friendly person. He helped us a lot with papers etc. with farm & enjoyed doing it. May God be with you during your grief.*



Sondra Goins - August 02, 2020 at 10:33 PM

DH

“ *Dennis And Pat Harner lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



Dennis and Pat Harner - August 02, 2020 at 09:38 PM

DH

*Carol and Megan we are sorry for your loss. I enjoyed my years working at Farm Service Agency with him.*

Dennis and Pat Harner - August 02, 2020 at 09:46 PM

TM

“ Tom And Carmen Murrie lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes



Tom and Carmen Murrie - August 02, 2020 at 10:32 AM

JA

“ Sorry for your loss. I have a beautiful painting that I bought from him a few years ago. It reminds me of my childhood in southern Illinois.

Julie Arington - August 01, 2020 at 07:05 PM

MS

“ Mike And Nancy Solomon lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes



Mike and Nancy Solomon - August 01, 2020 at 07:01 PM

MS

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your daughter at this time.

Mike and Nancy Solomon - August 01, 2020 at 07:01 PM

JS

“ John Slack lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes



John Slack - August 01, 2020 at 06:46 PM

BT

“ *Becky Turley lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



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**Becky Turley** - August 01, 2020 at 06:38 PM

JT

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and Megan in the coming days in your loss of ken. Ronnie & Joyce Taylor*

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**joyce taylor** - August 01, 2020 at 02:55 PM

JC

“ *Carol and Megan, my thoughts and prayers with you both. Ken has left a huge hole that will never be filled. He brought so much joy to those around him. I treasure the memories of all the long talks I had with him and his expertise and help when I needed it as I got into bicycling. He has left us much too soon, but his memories will always be in our hearts.*

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**Jeanne Clayton** - August 01, 2020 at 02:52 PM

WB

“ *Wm&Nancy Belford lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



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**Wm&Nancy Belford** - August 01, 2020 at 02:50 PM

LM

“ *Linda And Jeff Mathis lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



Linda and Jeff Mathis - August 01, 2020 at 02:43 PM

DR

“ *Debbie & Bill Rigsby lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



debbie & bill rigsby - August 01, 2020 at 12:47 PM

JM

“ *Jeannie McCall lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



Jeannie McCall - August 01, 2020 at 12:18 PM

AB

“ *Anita L Bullock lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



Anita L Bullock - August 01, 2020 at 12:15 PM

JP

“ Carol and Megan so so sorry for your loss. Ken was a wonderful person and a good man he will be missed by all who knew him. Our love and sympathy, Jerry, Judy and Jay Phelps.



j phelps - August 01, 2020 at 10:49 AM

TH

“ Tricia Hartline lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes



Tricia Hartline - August 01, 2020 at 10:03 AM

SJ

“ Steve & Darla Jones lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes



Steve & Darla Jones - August 01, 2020 at 07:59 AM

SM

“ SHIRLEY McDerman lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes



SHIRLEY McDerman - August 01, 2020 at 07:05 AM

MC

“ *Mrs. Case lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



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**mrs. Case** - July 31, 2020 at 11:30 PM

GT

“ *Our hearts are broken and can only get on the edge of your sorrow.....lifting you up in our prayers.....Remember the love, Always the love! Todd and Alice*

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**George & Alice Thodoropoulos** - July 31, 2020 at 11:29 PM

CD

“ *I Will...really miss Ken out on the hiking trails. He started with us (River to River Trail Society) a few years ago. He & often talked Cards baseball, and some farming. He, I & 2 other guys hiked in Fern Clyffe St. park in May..and he showed us a 'double-arch"...which is Very unusual...Really enjoyed being with/around him... You have my Deep Sympathies... Chris Drone*

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**Chris Drone** - July 31, 2020 at 10:43 PM

NR

“ *Carol and Megan you are in my thoughts and prayers. Nancy Riley*



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**Nancy Riley** - July 31, 2020 at 10:02 PM

EK

“ Elizabeth Kerley lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth W. Gerdes



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Elizabeth Kerley - July 31, 2020 at 09:22 PM

TK

“ Tammy King lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth W. Gerdes



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Tammy King - July 31, 2020 at 09:07 PM

CW

“ Carol, and Megan, I am so sorry for your  
loss. Praying for you with heartfelt sympathy.



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Carmen Breeden Wells - July 31, 2020 at 08:52 PM

KB

“ Carol & Megan, Ken and I worked together for many years at the  
USDA office in Vienna. We both followed SIU basketball. You'll be in  
my thoughts and prayers. I extend to both of you my heartfelt  
sympathy!

Keith Bell

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Keith Bell - July 31, 2020 at 08:52 PM

TM

“ *I'm So Sorry for Your Loss....Sending Prayers to Both Of You!!*



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**Theresa McKenzie-Trovillion** - July 31, 2020 at 08:33 PM

TR

“ *Teresa Richerson lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



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**Teresa Richerson** - July 31, 2020 at 07:49 PM

PS

“ *Carol and Megan, you both have my sincere sympathy. May God grant you peace at this difficult time.*  
*Peggy Jean Smoot*



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**Peggy Smoot** - July 31, 2020 at 06:57 PM

EJ

“ *Eric Johnson lit a candle in memory of Kenneth W. Gerdes*



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**Eric Johnson** - July 31, 2020 at 05:56 PM



“ Valerie Lynne lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth W. Gerdes



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**Valerie Lynne** - July 31, 2020 at 05:50 PM

EH

“ Ellen And David Hill lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth W. Gerdes



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**Ellen and David Hill** - July 31, 2020 at 04:37 PM

LF

“ Linda Fulkerson lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth W. Gerdes



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**Linda Fulkerson** - July 31, 2020 at 04:32 PM

CT

“ Carla Tapley lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth W. Gerdes



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**Carla Tapley** - July 31, 2020 at 04:15 PM

CH

“ Cheryl Harris lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth W. Gerdes



Cheryl Harris - July 31, 2020 at 03:49 PM

LK

“ Linda Koehler lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth W. Gerdes



Linda Koehler - July 31, 2020 at 03:42 PM

ML

“ Ken was a super guy, he will be missed  
greatly.. Carol, Megan, we are so sorry for  
your loss, love you both.. Max&LaRita



Max & LaRita - July 31, 2020 at 03:35 PM

LH

“ May Ken rest in peace!



Lonnie Hinton - July 31, 2020 at 03:30 PM

LK

*So sorry to hear this Carol*

**Linda Koehler** - July 31, 2020 at 03:41 PM

SH

*Kenny was funny, soft spoken and a very kind soul! I am very sorry for your loss...and ours! Steve Hughes CTHS class of '68.*

**Steven Hughes** - August 02, 2020 at 01:58 PM

GJ

*Carol and Megan we are so sorry for your loss. Our deepest sympathy. Gladys & Tom Jackson*

**Gladys Jackson** - August 04, 2020 at 01:50 PM