



Kenneth A. Prater

August 25, 1933 - November 24, 2020

Kenneth Alvin Prater was born to Curtis and Jesse Frances (Chapman) Prater on August 25, 1933 in Mexico, Missouri. He passed away on November 24, 2020 at Heritage Crossing in Geneva, Nebraska at the age of 87 years, 2 months, and 30 days. Kenneth was the 3rd of four children born in the family.

Ken spent his entire youth and formative years in Mexico, graduating high school there in 1951. Upon graduation he joined the Navy for a 3-year enlistment, achieving the noncommissioned officer rank of E7/CPO (chief petty officer). He served during the time of the Korean War, spending the majority of his time on the island of Guam and was quite proud of his service in general but specifically his work on the MARS planes. He additionally served until 1959 in an 'inactive reserve status'.

Upon returning to his hometown of Mexico he soon met the love of his life Carole Branch. After a whirlwind courtship, these two married on April 7, 1956, spending their honeymoon in Springfield. Kenneth started at Gem City Business College on the GI Bill in Quincy, IL, from which he graduated with a business associate's degree in accounting. After completion Ken & Carole moved to Louisiana, MO for Ken's first grain elevator position. During this time their firstborn Anthony Curtis came along on March 30, 1957. In short order came Phillip Alan on August 16, 1958. The couple then lived in Salina for a brief spell, while Ken worked at one of the elevators (during the filming of

Picnic). They then moved to Geneva, Nebraska in 1959 where Ken became the first and only manager of the Geneva Grain Company. Janice Ann was born in York, NE on February 8, 1960. Mary Carole was among the first 10 babies at the new Fillmore County Hospital on February 17, 1961. Then along came Kenneth Branch on July 24, 1962. Timothy Francis joined everyone else on December 1, 1964. An exhausted Carole gave birth to the final addition Donald Shane on October 2, 1967.

Ken and Carole - along with 'Geneva's adopted grandmother' Jesse Frances Prater (until her passing in 1972) - tried their best to maintain some semblance of order among the troops, typically finding a few new faces around the dinner table (you're not OUR kid are you?). Needless to say the Praters was 'the place to be' in the neighborhood. At one point, dad came home for a quick lunch and was apprising the children seated at the table, half with casts on broken limbs, some with stitches but all mangled in some way, with dad stating "Thank GOD for health insurance and Doc Ashby!".

The Prater Family Truckster (and a consistent loan of Don R Miller's Winnebago!) was probably what National Lampoon based their films on. Often spending many a summer in Mexico, the Prater kids were the envy of all their peers (wow, you guys travel internationally a lot!). When the Prater Army invaded restaurants while traveling, one memorable occasion was when a bug-eyed waitress asked dad "Are these ALL your kids?", dad shot back "No, we had to leave the triplets at home".

Vacations included many stops along the way with picnic lunches packed so the kids could run off a lot of steam. With a vehicle packed with 7 children, mom, dad and grandmother including luggage - needless to say - it was always an adventure. Some of the most memorable places visited were Grand Canyon; Panama City, FL; swimming in the Great Salt Lake (Utah); the White Sands of New Mexico; Columbus, Ohio where Carole's brother Bob and family

were located; Eufala, AL where Carole's parents retired from Mexico; Phoenix (where Ken's brother Don and family lived); Kansas City, MO to visit Ken's brother RC (who also was a master prankster). Of course the highlight was always the home stomping ground of Mexico, Missouri where the family fun was plentiful at his beloved sister Priscilla's house, the Fishburn family.

Ken and Carole enjoyed ballroom dancing at the old Flying V, traveling to see children and relations. Dad also had a lifelong love of sports, most especially baseball, remembering well seeing the St Louis Browns play in the 1940s.

Ken always felt civically inclined and served on the Geneva City Council in the 1970s. A proud military veteran, he also enjoyed his time in the VFW and Legion and, in 2014, was able to go to Washington DC on a Korean War Honor Flight, seeing the sites of the capital city - a memory he cherished.

Ken abided by the Golden Rule, was blessed with many friends, a loving family and, upon his transition to his final years at the Heritage Crossing Nursing Home in Geneva, was absolutely adored by staff and fellow residents. A memorable landmark of his stay at Heritage was being voted as Valentine King of the skilled facility on February 14, 2019.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents Curtis & Jesse Frances; brother RC (Roland Curtis); and just recently his sister Priscilla.

Kenneth is survived by the love of his life of 64 years Carole; children Curtis (Deb, daughters Hannah and Gabby); Phillip (Nancy, son Neal); Janice (Alan, daughters Shelbi & Kenzi); Mary (Harley, daughters Michelle, Robin and Katie); Ken (Susannah, children Megan, Tylor, Elana); Tim (Judy) and Don; great-grandchildren Kalon, Kade, Leighton, Leo, Leah, Taylar, Owen, Paxton and Tyler; and by his beloved brother and best friend Donald Prater.

Thank you to one and all for the great memories and, BOY, were they great!!

A private Memorial Mass for Kenneth was held on Friday, November 27, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Geneva, Nebraska. Father Harlan Waskowiak presided over the Mass. The musical selections "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art" were sang a cappella by the family.

Military Honors were held outside of the St. Joseph Catholic Church following the Memorial Mass. They were performed by the Geneva VFW Samuel J. Marsh Post 7102.

Kenneth will be placed in the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery at a later date.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com

Memorials are suggested to the Geneva VFW, Fairmont Veteran's Memorial, or the St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Tribute Wall

SW

“ I have just come upon this obituary while tracing my family tree. Kenneth was my 4th cousin. I can see from what has been written he was much loved by all his family and friends. Although we never met I feel I know you from the lovely words written about you. Kindest regards Sylvia

Sylvia Wells - September 26, 2022 at 01:59 PM

TW

“ My sincere condolences to Carole and all of the Praters. So many great memories of this kind man and time spent with your family. Lots of hugs, love and prayers to you all. Tammy

Tammy Ward - December 05, 2020 at 11:48 AM

TW

“ Tammy Ward lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Prater



Tammy Ward - December 05, 2020 at 11:43 AM

HA

“ R.I.P., Ken, from the Hall family. Many fond memories of growing up next to the Praters' on Webster street in Mexico. Sincere condolences to all. Terry Hall

HallTerry - December 01, 2020 at 08:30 PM

GT

“ Ken was easily the best boss I have ever had. I learned a lot from Ken and to this day recall some of the great conversations we used to have at the elevator. He was one hell of a pitch player and I loved to sit back and watch him and his buddies play around the table. He had a deep laugh that I always enjoyed, and anyone that heard it knows what I'm talking about.

I just wrote him a letter a few months ago to share with him some of the times I remembered about him, and now feel so fortunate that I did.

Gern

Grant Trierweiler - December 01, 2020 at 02:37 PM

KW

“ Uncle Ken always had a way of getting the troops ready for the trip home, bless his heart he had the patience of Jobe. I guess over the years of raising 7 children, the military training came in handy. Uncle Ken was strict but very loving and always had time to listen if you wanted to talk. I always thought he was a wonderful man whom I treasured greatly. I remember the Winne Motor Home and the trip to Six Flags in it, with all the Praters & Fishburns , oh what fun times we had. The love in the Prater home was always flowing and never turned anyone away. We will miss you Uncle Ken, but I know you and Mother (Priscilla) are catching up and having a grand time. RIP with much love. Karen Fishburn Weakley

Karen Fishburn Weakley - November 29, 2020 at 05:00 PM

CG

“ So sorry to hear of Ken's passing. My thoughts, prayers and condolences to the entire family.

Charlie Gregory - November 27, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ 22 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - November 27, 2020 at 12:29 PM



“ He was one of the first people I came to know in Geneva when I moved there in 1979. He was a wonderful man and I will miss my friend.

-Tim Fairbanks

Tim Fairbanks - November 27, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ Uncle Ken was not only a great Dad to his 7 children, but also a father figure to many nieces and nephews. I will miss the 4-5 am calls while traveling the long highways and the laughs and wisdom he always had for me. His sharp wit and knowledge of many subjects, i will miss a lot. Aunt Carole, Ken was not perfect, but he loved you so much and was very proud of all his children as he told me very often. My thoughts and prayers are with the Prater family, I will truly miss one of my last Hero's. R.I.P.

Kevin Fishburn

Kevin Fishburn - November 27, 2020 at 10:36 AM

TC

“ *Trish Chapman lit a candle in memory of
Kenneth A. Prater*



Trish Chapman - November 27, 2020 at 08:39 AM

DR

“ *Prater Family,
I am so sorry to hear of the loss of Kenneth. My thoughts and
prayers are with you.*
Don Reinsch -

Don Reinsch - November 27, 2020 at 01:32 AM

AP

“ In 1959, Geneva was experiencing a surge of capital unseen since the roaring twenties. Local businesses and contractors expanded their operations and services. The housing market was booming and Korean war vets were leveraging their VA loans to build dwellings for their families. Young farmers were using new irrigation methods, as well as technological advances in farm equipment and genetically modified seed to raise bumper crops like never before. The Geneva Grain Co., Inc., a group of local farmers and businessmen, were building a grain storage facility, elevator with the intent of competing with a grain merchant that had been in the community since the 1870's. GGCI needed a manager who could guide them through the twentieth century. Enter Kenneth A. Prater. A Mexican adopted by this town as one of their own. He stayed with Geneva Grain until his retirement and he remained true to Geneva, Nebraska until his death. He left an indelible print upon the psyche of this rough and tumble community. He brought the skills and sensibilities of a college educated, USN petty officer into his management of a respected business and he provided insight and direction to a cadre of young farmers who thought his Missouri sense of humor was unique. He leaves a list of friends and associates too long to repeat here. (You know who you are). His wife of 64 years and his seven children are his legacy and gifts to the world. Thanks Dad. Curt

Anthony Curtis Prater - November 26, 2020 at 08:46 PM

KH

“ Kurt Hofferber lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Prater



Kurt Hofferber - November 26, 2020 at 07:55 PM

VM

“ favorite memory is the summers that Uncle Ken and Aunt Carole came to Missouri so all of us cousins had time together..they traveled here or we went there each summer...did we ever have fun....love you Uncle Ken...Vicki

Vicki Murphy - November 26, 2020 at 06:39 PM

CD

“ I remember being with Ken and Carole one year in Las Vegas and a couple times we visited them in their home. We enjoyed their company and have many fond memories.
We are very lucky to have daughter Mary as our niece.
RIP Kenny
Dick and Cora DeLano

Cora & Dick DeLano - November 26, 2020 at 05:37 PM

PD

“ "Uncle" Ken Your e-mail s were so enjoyable and have many of them saved so I can reread them from time to time. Prayers to your family I know they will miss you so.

Penny Dahl - November 26, 2020 at 04:45 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth A. Prater.



November 26, 2020 at 02:44 PM

MW

“ *Michael Webb lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Prater*



Michael Webb - November 26, 2020 at 02:33 PM

DW

“ *Carole & family: We were neighbors and friends as newcomers to our lovely small town of Geneva. Our kids played and prayed together at St. Joseph's. Larry loved Ken's company and stories over coffee in the early mornings, before work. He was so special my boys, too. As are you, Carole. Larry and Ken are sharing some laughs again, now. Please find comfort in your memories of your husband, father, grandpa and great grandfather. Darlene Webb*

Darlene Webb - November 26, 2020 at 02:30 PM

BB

“ *Sorry to hear of your loss. I am sure there are many who have memories of sitting around the dinner table at supper time at your folks house. May the memories bring you comfort during this time. Bobbie*

Bobbie Bock-Itzen - November 26, 2020 at 02:13 PM

BW

“ *Our sincere condolences to the Prater family.*

Becky & Pat Wallis - November 26, 2020 at 01:20 PM

BW

“ *Bill Webb lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Prater*



Bill Webb - November 25, 2020 at 10:26 PM

PG

“ *We are so sorry to hear that Kenny passed. What a great guy. He will leave a void that will never be filled. Please know we are here for you in whatever you need. Prayers. With Love and Caring Pat and Dayle Gewecke*

pat and dayle gewecke - November 25, 2020 at 09:37 PM

DM

“ *We always enjoyed a friendly greeting at the elevator when he was there. We shared cookies many times. He was a wonderful family man and a pillar of our community. He will be missed by all. Our sincere sympathy!*
Harold & Dorothy Moravec

Dorothy Moravec - November 25, 2020 at 07:58 PM

DS

“ *Dave & Dorene Sattler lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Prater*



Dave & Dorene Sattler - November 25, 2020 at 06:25 PM

VA

“ Vicki Allgood lit a candle in memory of
Kenneth A. Prater



Vicki Allgood - November 25, 2020 at 04:32 PM

VJ

“ 🙏🙏 Hugs and Prayers!



Virginia Johnson - November 25, 2020 at 03:25 PM

SB

“ Prater family we are sorry for your loss

Scott & Linda Bahe - November 25, 2020 at 01:25 PM

CW

“ Carol & Family,
We got to know Ken well through the
McPecks when they were our neighbors and
he would stop by there for coffee. He always
had a word of advise (and it was always worth
taking!) and he always gave it with that jovial laugh and kind smile!
He was a great family man and loved to talk about ALL his family.
Our prayers and sympathy go out to all of you at this difficult time.
Jim & Carlene Whitehead



Carlene Whitehead - November 25, 2020 at 12:44 PM

KT

“*Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Prater*



Kent & Rose Theobald - November 25, 2020 at 10:22 AM

LM

“*Lynn Mussman lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Prater*



Lynn Mussman - November 25, 2020 at 09:09 AM

DR

“*Doug Fischer & Holly Rippe lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Prater*



Doug Fischer & Holly Rippe - November 25, 2020 at 08:40 AM

SC

“*I always enjoyed taking care of Ken when I worked in Geneva. He was such a sweet man. He always had great words of wisdom for us nurses. He had a great smile and laugh. Truly, a great guy.*
Shannon Clark

Shannon Clark - November 25, 2020 at 06:22 AM

JW

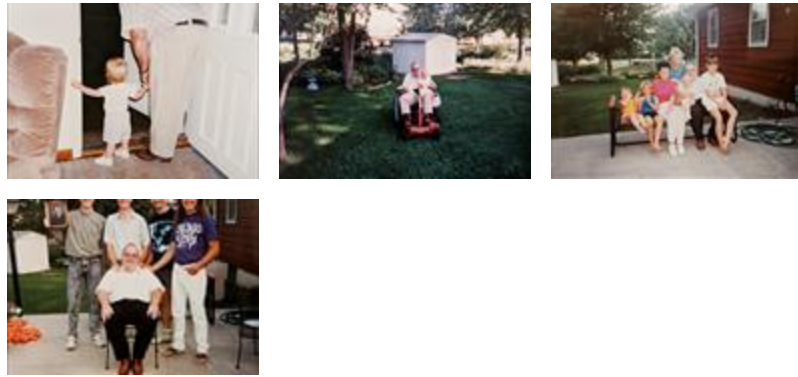
“ Jeff and Barb Whitley sending prayers to the family.



Jeff and Barb Whitley - November 24, 2020 at 11:20 PM

MI

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Michele - November 24, 2020 at 09:25 PM

MI

“ I love you Grandpa ❤️



Michele - November 24, 2020 at 09:06 PM

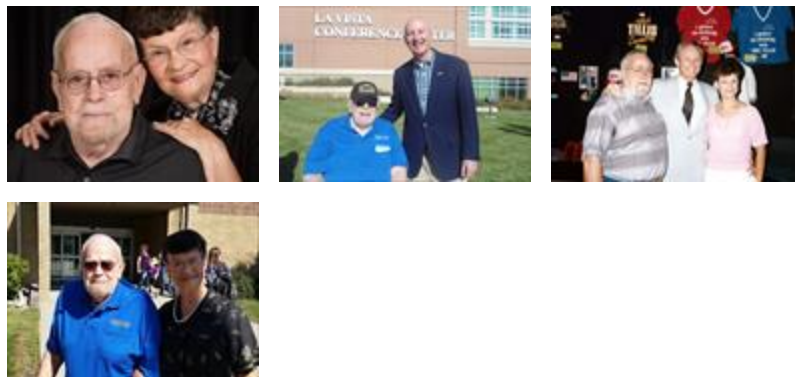


“ Words just can not explain how much he will be missed by everyone. He was a man of honor and also had a loving sweet side. I am so happy that I was able to take care of him. God Bless you all at this difficult time.

Amy Franssen - November 24, 2020 at 08:45 PM

DP

“ 4 files added to the album Memories Album



Don Prater - November 24, 2020 at 08:32 PM

RS

“ Rhonda Schlick lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Prater



Rhonda Schlick - November 24, 2020 at 08:19 PM

BW

“ They call it, “America’s greatest generation”, because of men like Ken Prater. Personal responsibility, integrity, humility, strong work ethic, financial prudence and faithful commitment are all traits that define Ken. He was a great friend to my entire family and will be truly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Carole and family.
Bob & Beth Webb

Bob Webb - November 24, 2020 at 05:48 PM

GG

Our prayers go out to all Ken’s family. We have known the family for many years. Our kids went to school together.

Gary & Liz Gerberding - November 25, 2020 at 07:03 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - November 24, 2020 at 04:19 PM

LJ

What a great fella, he will be sadly missed. God Bless all of you at this time. Love to all Lowell and Terry Johnson 🙏❤️🙏

Lowell & Terry Johnson - November 24, 2020 at 08:28 PM

LM

Kenny was such a nice person. I enjoyed the times I was able to visit with him. Just know that his memory will live on in the hearts of all of you. sending our Love, deepest sympathy and prayers.
Lynn and Rex

Lynn Mussman - November 25, 2020 at 09:14 AM

MS

“ Prater Family, so sorry for your loss, Ken was a great guy. Our
Deepest Sympathy❤️

Mark & Sarah - November 24, 2020 at 03:56 PM