

Lonnie W. Kennel

May 6, 1947 - May 20, 2021

A Memorial Service for Lonnie Kennel was held on Thursday, June 3, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in Davenport, Nebraska. Pastors Beth Roegner and Chris Lake officiated the Memorial Service. Deb Johnson accompanied the congregation in the singing of “Blessed Assurance” and “I Was There To Hear Your Boring Cry.” She also accompanied Madison Martin in the singing of “Amazing Grace.”

Honorary Pallbearers for the service were Mike Kleppinger, Joe Balk, Jason Hendrickson, John Lott, John Eberly, Jim Manes, Pierre Kennel, Lance Kennel and Reid Hooper.

A private entombment of ashes took place in the Geneva Public Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to the Mission of Mercy Free Dental Clinic.

Lonnie Wayne Kennel was born on May 6, 1947 in Geneva, Nebraska to Wayne L. and Betty J. (Schweitzer) Kennel. He was the oldest of three children. He grew up on the family farm in Shickley and graduated from Shickley High School in 1965. Lonnie attended two years at Hesston College, Heston, Kansas and completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska. He was accepted into the College of Dentistry, UNL, where he graduated in 1972 with a Doctorate of Dentistry.

During his tenure at UNL, he met the love of his life Marsha Lorraine Jensen. One week following graduation, they were wed on May 27, 1972 in Denver, Colorado. The couple established their home in Geneva, Nebraska. They were blessed with two children, Kirk A. Kennel and Kate A. (Kennel) Manes. Lonnie loved his family and enjoyed every moment he spent with his grandchildren.

Dr. Lonnie and Marsha Kennel maintained his dental practice for over 30 years in Geneva, Nebraska. Lonnie loved being a dentist. He often used his dental practice to share his faith and love of the Lord with others. He was a dentist for the Mission of Mercy, a nonprofit organization that provides free dental care on weekends for needy Nebraskans. He traveled to the Peoples Health Center in Lincoln and provided dental care to those who needed dental care. He donated his time, skills, and supplies while being able to share his faith. One of his proudest moments as a dentist was in 2010, when he was nominated and inducted into the American Society of Dental Ethics, an organization whose purpose is upholding the integrity and honor of the dental profession.

Lonnie carried his love for the Lord in other areas of his life. He taught Sunday School, Bible Studies, and eventually he became a Parish Ministry Associate for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

Lonnie loved fishing, golfing, and spending time with his friends and family. The annual trip to Canada with his dental buddies was a favorite. He enjoyed the many shore lunches, card games, and the genuine comradery. He enjoyed being at his cabin at Morning Star Lake and later at Long Lake 2, Backus, Minnesota where he would grill burgers, water ski, and enjoy his children.

Lonnie enjoyed golf and played on leagues with his father, Dave Eberly, Pastor Lake and many other friends along the way. Anyone who knew Lonnie, knows that he enjoyed a good meal (and maybe a beer or two) at home, at a local diner, or a five-star restaurant with his family and friends. He may not have remembered the location, but he could always tell you what good beer was served.

Lonnie Wayne Kennel entered his heavenly home on May 20, 2021. His parents, parents-in-law, several aunts, uncles, and cousins preceded him in death.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 49 years, Marsha Kennel of Davenport, Nebraska; his son, Kirk Kennel of Davenport, Nebraska; daughter, Kate A. (Jim) Manes of Davenport, Nebraska; grandchildren, Noah, Ben, Jackson, Ellie, and Leah; brother, Victor (Wanda) Kennel of Texas; sister, Victoria (Tom) Bassett of California; many nieces and nephews; and grandchildren in his heart Britney, Reed, Elizabeth, Hanna, and Clara.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

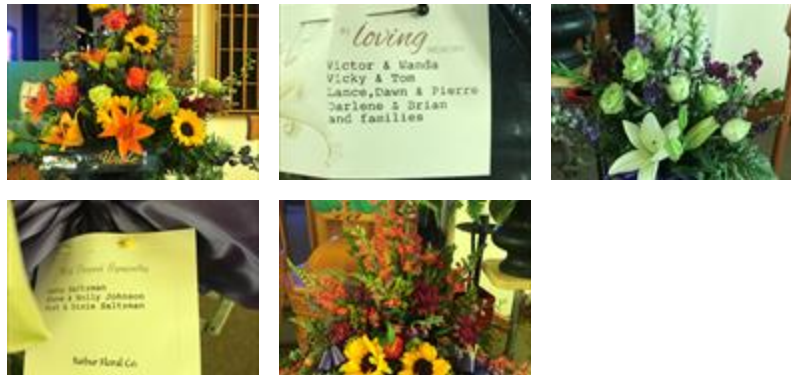
JUN 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Christ Lutheran Church
201 N Maple Ave
Davenport, NE 68335

Tribute Wall



“ 27 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - June 03, 2021 at 04:21 PM

DM

“ Our sympathy to Marsha & the family. Lonnie was my dentist for years. I always enjoyed visiting with him. We were neighbors after we moved to Geneva. May he Rest In Peace!

Dorothy & Harold Moravec - June 01, 2021 at 01:03 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Lonnie W. Kennel.



May 27, 2021 at 07:33 PM

AH

“ Sending our deepest sympathy and much love to all of you.

Allyson Horne - May 27, 2021 at 04:54 PM

MC

“ We were privileged to know Lonnie in his role in the pulpit sharing the word of God with our faith family. We enjoyed his service and his sharing of life experience with us very much. You Marsha, Kate, Kirk and all of your family are very much in our thoughts and prayers as you honor and celebrate his life, all he has been, all he has done and the legacy he has left in each of you. He was an exceptional individual.

Mary Alice Corman - May 27, 2021 at 11:45 AM

HR

“ Holly Rippe lit a candle in memory of Lonnie W. Kennel



Holly Rippe - May 25, 2021 at 11:17 AM

VJ

“ Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Lonnie W. Kennel



Virginia Johnson - May 24, 2021 at 11:54 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Lonnie W. Kennel.



May 23, 2021 at 10:37 PM

KW

“ *Dr. Kennel was a wonderful man and a fantastic dentist!*

My prayers are with his family.

Kathleen McCarthy Wilbeck

Kathleen Wilbeck - May 22, 2021 at 12:54 PM

SS

“ *Steve And Barb Sadd lit a candle in memory of Lonnie W. Kennel*



steve and barb sadd - May 21, 2021 at 08:09 PM

LE

“ *Marsha and Family,*

We were sad to learn of Lonnie's passing. He was a cousin of ours, so we knew him well. In addition to being a cousin, he was a good friend.. We were very happy when he made the choice to become a dentist. He told me many times of the long hours of study and how Marsha would assist him with his studies. He also made a good choice when he chose Marsha to be his wife and walk with him through the years. Dr. Lonnie was a great dentist and cared for our family for many years. He truly cared for his patients and always did the very best for each of them.

I recall how he would come to the hospital and to my office and sit down and begin to tell me what his plans were. At one time he even considered locating an office inside the hospital.

Lonnie was a Christian man and it showed in so many ways during his lifetime. I know the last 10 years were difficult for him, but his answer to 'how you doing', would always be "I am ok". I never heard him complain, just always moved ahead with technology that was available for his health.

And he did have a sense of humor too! Having known his Father, Wayne, I believe that may have been an inherited trait.

Marsha, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time. Thank you for caring for him these last years.

May the peace of Christ surround each of you.

Larry and Barbara Eichelberger

Larry Eichelberger - May 21, 2021 at 07:31 PM

“ Dear Kennel Family, It is hard to know where to begin about Lonnie. I knew I liked him the first time I met him. It is hard to put my finger on what made him so unique. Maybe it was that he had a great sense of humor. He always brought a smile to my face. I could never come up with a faster funnier comment than him. Maybe it wasn't as much his sense of humor as it was his positive outlook on life. I just loved being around him. He always made me feel good. Marsha was a great straight woman for his comments. It was like Burns and Allen in reverse.

Than again maybe it was that he was a genuine fine and good person. I mean that in the highest regard. Lonnie didn't just talk the talk, he walked the walk. In my life experiences I have met few people like Lonnie Kennel. Oh there are many good people out there in the world. But Lonnie was the best of the best. If Lonnie knew a fellow individual needed help, his instinct was to do whatever he could do to help. I watched this first hand. He made me feel guilty of my own selfish ways because I felt I could never be as good as him. Lonnie would not only give you the shirt of his back if he felt you needed it, he would throw in the rest of his clothes as well. He actually was one of the few people that made me feel inadequate as a person. Because after being around Lonnie, whenever I would try to help someone I knew in my mind, Lonnie would do more. Having known Lonnie made me a better person. I am not as religious as most, but I know a real Christian when I see one. Lonnie was such a person.

Lonnie had a tough last 10 years of his life because of health issues. He did not deserve that with all the good he did. I can only hope he is rewarded in the hereafter for his good works.

I mentioned earlier the comedy husband and wife team of Burns and Allen. Well Lonnie had a great partner in his loving and dedicated wife Marsha. Maybe that is what made him so unique. I can't say enough about Marsha. When I first met her she seemed quiet and reflective. Lonnie's personality stood out so much it was

probably not a fair assessment of her then. Marsha practiced all the good qualities shown by Lonnie but in a subdued manner. Marsha and Lonnie were loyal to their friends and family. When things get tough that is when you know what a person is really made of. When Lonnie started having his health problems about 10 years ago, Marsha stood steadfast by his side and cared for him throughout. Love may be defined in many different ways, but I always thought it was a overused word. Love to me means sacrifice for the one you love. Marsha loved Lonnie and he loved her.

I have many great memories about Lonnie and I am sure his family has many more. All great memories and I hope comforting at this time of his passing.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Lonnie and his family.

My friend I will never forget you, thank you for teaching me what it means to be a good giving person.

God Bless you and your family.

Your friends, Daniel & Janet Bryan

DANIEL BRYAN - May 21, 2021 at 11:25 AM

DM

Mr. Bryan, your reflection of Doc and Marsha was perfect.

Dr. Amber A Adair Morrow - May 22, 2021 at 08:36 AM

LP

“ *LaDonna Pendleton lit a candle in memory of Lonnie W. Kennel*



LaDonna Pendleton - May 21, 2021 at 10:57 AM

TF

“ *Todd Nichols and family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Lonnie W. Kennel.*



Todd Nichols and family - May 21, 2021 at 09:09 AM

HW

“ *Prayers and sympathy to the family of such a kind and caring man, dentist and friend that truly walked with God during his all too short time on earth.*

Heather Whitehead - May 21, 2021 at 08:43 AM