



## Michael A. Kempf

February 18, 1952 - December 4, 2017

Michael A. Kempf, 65, resident of Shickley, Nebraska passed away on Monday, December 4th, 2017 in Geneva, Nebraska. Mike was born in Hebron, Nebraska on February 18, 1952 to Rowen J. and Lila L. (Hendrickson) Kempf. He was the oldest of three children in his family. He was baptized and confirmed at the United Methodist Church in Shickley. He went to Shickley Public School and graduated with the class of 1970. He went to the University of Nebraska in Lincoln and graduated in 1975 with a Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics. After college he moved back to his hometown and joined his family in their farming operation.

He was united in marriage to Jill Larson in November of 1976. From this union, two daughters were born, Mikaela Jean and Danielle Lee. His life centered around his girls. He adored watching them grow. He spent countless hours with his girls playing catch in the yard, teaching them to drive with the old Pontiac Bonneville, training the fair hogs, and showing them how to be amazing women.

He loved the fair trips with his kids. In 1996, he was awarded the Honorary Chapter Farmer by the FFA. That year he and his brother helped escort two truck loads of hogs to the State Fair in Lincoln. He even helped chase loose hogs down the midway and out of the Clydesdale barn despite his dislike of horses.

He was a dedicated sports enthusiast. He played Shickley fast pitch softball for many years and even brought home a state championship in 1982. He was extremely proud of his team and kept in touch with many of his teammates. He loved all sports but he especially enjoyed the events his kids, nieces, nephews, grandkids, grandnephews and grandnieces participated in. He loved to coach (yell) from the sidelines. At one district track meet, he was on his hands and knees, pounding the track, to encourage his daughter to run faster. He coached his girls in high school softball for six years. He found great pleasure watching his nephews play high school and college football. Of late, you would find him at the ballfield or school auditorium catching his grands in a game.

His passion was farming. His eyes twinkled when he spoke about the enjoyment he found in farming with his family. He loved watching the crops grow, but he loved the harvest season the most. In September you would find him driving the combine in shorts and a tshirt (despite the weather), listening to the weather channel in the cab, and eating every last tootsie roll pop in the bag.

He is survived by his parents, Rowen and Lila Kempf of Shickley; his daughters, Mikaela Eitzmann (husband, Chris) of Wellesley, Massachusetts, and Danielle Horwart (husband, Doyle) of Burnsville, Minnesota; siblings, Mark Kempf (wife, Janet) and Jody Heinrichs (husband, Steve) of Shickley; stepdaughters Wendy Vanskiver (husband Mark) and Elisabeth Heitmann (husband Jeremy); grandkids, Coen, Asher, Seth, Lila, Stella and Eli; many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews and special friend Melodee Andersen.

A Funeral Service for Michael was held on Saturday, December 9, 2017 at 10:30 a.m. the United Methodist Church in Shickley. Pastor Martin Leeper was

the officiant. Stanley Johnson accompanied the congregation in the singing of “Precious Lord, Take My Hand,” “Lord, You Have Come To The Seashore,” and “In The Garden.”

Pallbearers for the service included Chris Eitzmann , Doyle Horwart, Jesse Kempf, Jered Kempf, Cody Kempf, Greg Heinrichs, Coen Eitzmann, and Jay Kempf. Honorary Bearers included Asher Eitzmann, Seth Eitzmann, Lila Eitzmann, Wyatt Kempf, Axton Kempf, Blaine Kempf, Aydin Kempf, Luke Elting, Koy Elting, Kade Elting, Ella Williams, Crosbe Williams, Graeme Williams, and Lennie Jo Heinrichs. It was Mike’s wish to be cremated following the Funeral Service. Farmer and Son Funeral Home of Geneva directed the services. Online condolences may be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com). Memorials may be sent to the family for later designation.

# Tribute Wall

DL

“ I'm sad to say I haven't seen Rowan & Lila and my cousins Mike, Mark and Jody in 45 years. Life takes us in so many directions and time slips away before you can blink. I found some of Dad's old movies, watched as Mark drove us around on an old ford tractor....I told my wife I wanted to get back to see all my folks while we were still around, I guess God had other plans but I'll never forget Mike's smile, it never changed in all those years. Our prayers & condolences to all the folks back home.

*Don Lippincott & family*

*PS. I always figured Mike got his sense of humor from Uncle Jay! ; )*

*PSS. hope to get back there soon*

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**Don J Lippincott** - December 29, 2017 at 11:16 PM



“ Everyone in Brig Young's family was very sad to hear about Mike's passing. Word didn't get to us until after the services were held and we were very sorry not to be there to represent this part of the family. I remember Mike as being a kind, warm man full of life and good humor. We didn't see each other much as we got older, but I will never forget visiting the Kempf farm during the summer as kids - especially the egg fight we had that got us in some hot water! Those memories remain precious to me to this day. Our thoughts are with you during this time of sadness, but Mike's bright smile still warms our hearts.

*Gene Davis and JoAnn Stransky*

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December 12, 2017 at 04:33 PM

SY

“ Rowen and Lila, I just saw the post about Mike’s passing. I’m so very sorry I know this is a heartbreaking loss for all of you!!

*Many fun memories of Mike when we were kids!!!! I wish I could take away your pain. Please know that I’m thinking about you and sending prayers for healing and comfort.*

*Your Cousin, Susan Young*

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**Susan Young** - December 10, 2017 at 07:24 PM

VJ

“ Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Kempf



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**Virginia Johnson** - December 09, 2017 at 04:22 PM



“ 136 files added to the album Flower Pics



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**Farmer & Son Funeral Home** - December 09, 2017 at 12:33 PM

VJ

*Thoughts and Prayers!*

Virginia Johnson - December 09, 2017 at 04:23 PM

WF

“ *With sympathy, Kristine & your Aveda family. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



With sympathy, Kristine & your Aveda family. - December 08, 2017 at 03:31 PM

FK

“ *With deep sadness on hearing of Mike's passing. I will always cherish the memories we had in our short time together. He was so full of life, happiness, respect and joy. He was never short for words plenty of laughter when he was around. I will forever carry his memories we had playing softball together. I am so very thankful that he was a part of my life. A true loss for everyone that knew him. Your friend Fastfreddy.*

Fred Kubik - December 08, 2017 at 03:07 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



December 08, 2017 at 11:16 AM

JS

“ We always enjoyed seeing Mike with Rowan and Lila on Christmas Eve. He always had a great big smile on his face. God, please bless this family that they remember all the special times they had with Mike, to help them through their grief stricken times. Mike will be smiling down on them. Our hearts go out to you all.

*Judy & Dave Smith*

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**Judy Smith** - December 08, 2017 at 02:22 AM



“ Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael A. Kempf.



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December 07, 2017 at 11:23 PM

CB

“ I will always remember Mike's positive attitude when I had him as a student and served as one of his coaches in his early high school days. Our sympathy goes to all of his family. Carroll and Joan Barnes

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**Carroll Barnes** - December 07, 2017 at 08:41 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael A. Kempf.



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December 07, 2017 at 04:44 PM

JT

“ This man and the entire Kempf family, among many other families, became extended family during our years in Shickley. I have so many wonderful memories of this guy, which circle around coffee sessions at the store, days I spent with my dad and the kids at the farm, softball and track, among many other times/adventures I spent with the girls growing up. He always had a sense of humor, and the best and most contagious laugh around. This picture encapsulates the man I remember. We are deeply saddened by the loss of Mike and our hearts and prayers go out to you. May you all find peace and strength in the memories shared during this difficult time. I love you all!

Jessica (Bond) Taggett

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Jessica Taggett - December 07, 2017 at 02:33 PM

KW

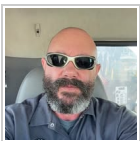
“ My condolences and love to a wonderful family. Mike was a good and caring friend.

Kathleen McCarthy Wilbeck



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Kathleen McCarthy Wilbeck - December 07, 2017 at 01:33 PM



“ Mike was a demanding first boss for a wet behind the ears kid to have, but he was also fun to be around at the same time. He taught me some tough lessons that helped turn me into the man I am today. For that I am eternally grateful. The world lost a great man this week.

Lord, please wrap the Kempfs in love and light and please send Mike to greet each of us with a dumb joke when we arrive in your Kingdom.

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Michael Gowen - December 07, 2017 at 12:48 PM

WF

“ *With Sympathy, Nick Bedlan and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



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**With Sympathy, Nick Bedlan and Family** - December 07, 2017  
at 12:08 PM

FF

“ *From the Spurling Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



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**From the Spurling Family** - December 07, 2017 at 11:57 AM

LF

“ *Love: Reg & Chris, Theresa, Katie, Ross & families purchased the Sapphire Skies Bouquet for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



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**Love: Reg & Chris, Theresa, Katie, Ross & families** -  
December 07, 2017 at 11:50 AM

KS

“ *The world has lost a wonderful man. Mike's laughter and smile were infectious and always brightened my day. Spending time with he and Mel was always a great amount of fun. I know he will be deeply missed by all those who loved him and were lucky enough to call him their friend. My heart goes out to Mel and all of the Kempf family. May you find happiness in the wonderful memories you have of Mike.*

*Hugs and much love,  
Kristi Stahl*

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**Kristi Stahl** - December 07, 2017 at 10:48 AM

MO

“ *Marla Ourada lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Kempf*



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**Marla Ourada** - December 07, 2017 at 09:31 AM

TT

“ *Toy Terri purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



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**Toy Terri** - December 07, 2017 at 07:56 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



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December 07, 2017 at 07:21 AM



“ *Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



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December 06, 2017 at 09:32 PM



“ *I'm so very sorry for you're loss !!  
I have some great memories with Mike and Mark and will always appreciate the friendship.  
RIP my friend*



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**Jim Bedlan** - December 06, 2017 at 08:51 PM



“ *Kempf family. My heartfelt sympathy to your family. I enjoyed being around Mike as he always was smiling and so friendly. He will be missed. Sandra Schafer-Nagy*

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**sandra schaffer-nagy** - December 06, 2017 at 07:26 PM

BB

“ *bob bedlan purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



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**bob bedlan** - December 06, 2017 at 03:36 PM

FY

“ *From Your Friends at Midwest Bank in York purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



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**From Your Friends at Midwest Bank in York** - December 06, 2017 at 03:30 PM

BB

“ *Bob Bedlan lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Kempf*



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**bob bedlan** - December 06, 2017 at 03:29 PM

CH

“ I will also always remember Mike for his laugh that could be heard all throughout the bank which put a smile on everyone's face. I so enjoyed working with Mike throughout the years and felt he truly appreciated our relationship which meant so much to me. On behalf of Midwest Bank we extend our deepest sympathies to the family. I am so grateful for getting to know the Kempf family through Mike and I will certainly miss him as a friend above all else.

*Chad Hammer*

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**Chad Hammer** - December 06, 2017 at 03:19 PM

 Sandi Snyder

“ So sorry for your loss. Mike was a great guy. He will be missed.

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**Sandi Snyder** - December 06, 2017 at 02:54 PM



“ Mike's smile to everyone was so wonderful and always a laugh. You are a great friend and my heart goes out to your family and friends. You are my wonderful friend. God Bless you! Debbie W

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**Debbie McCord Willy** - December 06, 2017 at 02:17 PM

MG

“ I will not forget seeing you the afternoon before you were taken away from all of us. Your laugh & conversations will be missed and I will relish in them. A heartfelt condolence to your family & Mel.  
*Marshall Gaines*

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**Marshall Gaines** - December 06, 2017 at 02:05 PM

DS

“ *Life in Shickley will never be the same without Mike's laugh and personality. We will miss him so much. Please accept our deepest sympathy for this great loss. You will be in our thoughts and prayers over the coming months to adjust to your lives without Mike. Love and Prayers, Den and Kay*

Den and Kay Swartzendruber - December 06, 2017 at 12:16 PM

CK

*Rowen Lila and families. Our sincere sympathy to all of you in your loss. A special man now has left us and we will greatly miss him. Our prayers and thoughts are with all of you. Keith and Cristy*

cristy koch - December 06, 2017 at 01:47 PM

MA

*I'm so sorry to here about your loss .. I'm thoughts are with you at this time.. sending prayers and hugs*

Marcia - December 07, 2017 at 12:44 AM

SK

*Rowan, Lila, and family - We were so very sorry to hear about Mike's accident. We will always treasure the good times spent at the softball field with Mike and the girls. He will be missed! Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you mourn your great loss. Jerry and Sue*

Susan Keim - December 07, 2017 at 01:07 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael A. Kempf.*



December 06, 2017 at 12:13 PM



“ *Mike always greeted everyone with a laugh. I don't ever remember seeing Mike without hearing his cheerful laugh.*

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**Cliff Schultz** - December 06, 2017 at 11:42 AM



“ *Holly Rippe lit a candle in memory of Michael A. Kempf*



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**Holly Rippe** - December 06, 2017 at 08:42 AM



*I was sadden to hear about the loss of Mike . His smile was contagious . And he could always make you laugh. My prayers and thoughts are with all Marcia Busse*

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**Marcia Busse** - January 03, 2018 at 12:28 AM