



Kenneth L. Van Gilst

April 29, 1939 - February 22, 2020

Kenneth Van Gilst, 80, of Oskaloosa, died Saturday, February 22, 2020, at the MHP Hospice Serenity House in Oskaloosa. He was born April 29, 1939, in Mahaska County, the son of Bass and Harriet (DeBruin) Van Gilst. He graduated from Pella Christian High School with the Class of 1956. Ken went on to receive his bachelor's degree from Iowa State University in 1960. On June 3, 1959, he was united in marriage to Geraldine "Gerri" Van Wyk at the First Christian Reformed Church in Oskaloosa. To this union, four children were born, Karen, Jacqueline, Joel and Bryce.

Following his graduation from college, Ken returned to the family farm near Cedar, Iowa. He moved to town in 1990 but continued to work on the farm daily with his sons until illness forced him to slow down in 2019. He never lost touch with what was happening at the farm and was always eager to offer advice from town.

Ken was a man of deep faith. He lived his faith through his dedicated service to: The Cedar Christian Reformed Church where he had attended since the age of 2, and was a charter member. He was very active in the church. He gave generously of his time and talents and served the church in many capacities. He also lived his faith through the Oskaloosa and Pella Christian School Boards, Love INC., Partners Worldwide, World Renew, and countless trips to Africa to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

He was a dedicated farmer that believed in being a good steward of the land and taking good care of his livestock. He was a lifelong learner and was active with the Iowa Pork Producers, Iowa Corn Growers, and Iowa Soybean Growers Associations. He also served as a 4-H Swine Superintendent and looked forward to taking the "pig bus" to school Ag Days. He believed in learning, pursuing, and sharing the best practices for sustainable agriculture.

He believed in being involved and giving back to his community, he was a Hospice Volunteer for over 25 years, he served on the Oskaloosa Chamber of Commerce board, Iowa Trust Bank (now TruBank) board, William Penn Board, and various other community

organizations.

His family is his legacy, he took great interest in all of his children and grandchildren's lives. He led by example and enjoyed sharing his passions with all of them.

His family includes his wife Geraldine "Gerri" Van Gilst of Oskaloosa; his daughters and their husbands, Karen and Henry Doorn of Palos Heights, IL., Jacqueline and Andrew David of Bovey, MN; two sons and their wives, Joel and Lisa Van Gilst and Bryce and Shannon Van Gilst all of Oskaloosa; his grandchildren, Brian (Debra) Doorn, Megan Doorn, Adam Doorn, Aaron (Erika) Doorn, Evan David, Aric David, Katelyn (Adam) Howerzyl, Cory Van Gilst, Ryan Van Gilst, Trent Van Gilst, Chelsea (Nick) Landgrebe and Tyler Parker; great grandchildren, Callie and Camden Doorn; two brothers, Carl Van Gilst of Indiana and Rev. Mark (Lola) Van Gilst of Pennsylvania; three sisters, Elaine (Jerry) Van Wyk of Pella, Diane (Dean) Van Wyngarden of Oskaloosa, and Joleen (Fred) Vanderheide of Ontario, Canada.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters in law, Joyce Van Gilst and Shirley Van Gilst.

Funeral services will be held Friday, February 28, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. in the First Christian Reformed Church in Oskaloosa with Reverends Mark Van Gilst and John A. Ritsema officiating. There will be a family prayer service at 10:45 Friday morning in the fellowship hall of the church. Burial will take place in the Forest Cemetery in Oskaloosa prior to services. Visitation will be held on Thursday, February 27, beginning after 10:00 a.m. in the First Christian Reformed Church in Oskaloosa with the family present from 4-7 p.m. at the church to greet guests and relatives. Memorials may be made to the Ken Van Gilst Memorial fund and will benefit: Partners Worldwide, MHP Hospice, and the Oskaloosa Christian School.

Cemetery

Forest Cemetery

634 North 9th Street
Oskaloosa, IA, 52577

Events

FEB 27 Visitation - Open 10:00AM - 04:00PM
First Christian Reformed Church
815 North 11th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

FEB 27 Visitation - Family Present 04:00PM - 07:00PM
First Christian Reformed Church
815 North 11th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

FEB 28 Funeral Service 11:00AM
First Christian Reformed Church
815 North 11th Street, Oskaloosa, IA, US, 52577

Comments



“ Domestic Marketing Team at the National Pork Board purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Kenneth L. Van Gilst.



Domestic Marketing Team at the National Pork Board - February 28, 2020 at 08:50 AM



“ 33 years have gone by quickly....since we met "Kin" (I was calling him "Mr. VanGilst". He told me I could call him "Kin"--I didn't catch that it was Ken--with a sweet accent. ;))

The event was at Henry and Karen's wedding celebrations in Oskaloosa. He was so personable showing us around the hog farm. Answering all my questions and my fascination with all things farming and animals. I was very impressed by his calm demeanor and organized way of doing everything. Going to church on Sunday was wonderful. Hearing it was the church Ken's family started....really special. So much family legacy. So much love for Jesus. So much that will continue on because of Ken's faith and love for his Savior. Thankful, blessed and writing with joy because this is not the end. Praising God for this man of faith and looking forward to the days of seeing him in Heaven and hearing more stories about pigs and other things. Until then, love and blessings Kin! --margie & jim too! (Doorns from Frankfort, IL)

Margie Doorn - February 27, 2020 at 07:22 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. Van Gilst.



February 27, 2020 at 07:09 PM



“ I praise God for the influence Ken had on my life and the lives of my family. As a mentor and friend, his examples of faith and generosity truly were a gift to me and many others.

Ron Vande Wall - February 27, 2020 at 11:41 AM



“ 20 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bates Funeral Chapel - February 26, 2020 at 02:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. Van Gilst.



February 26, 2020 at 01:43 PM



“ Curt and Wendy Van Wyk family purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Kenneth L. Van Gilst.



CURTIS L VANWYK - February 26, 2020 at 12:33 PM



“ 90 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bates Funeral Chapel - February 25, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. Van Gilst.



February 25, 2020 at 03:57 PM



“ Our deepest condolences to the entire family. So sorry for your loss.

Cyndy Stek - February 25, 2020 at 02:42 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. Van Gilst.



February 25, 2020 at 01:56 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. Van Gilst.



February 25, 2020 at 12:04 PM



“ Ken was a powerful leader in keeping the Chr. ref. Church at Cedar going Strong He was always enthusiastic about reaching people and telling them About God’s love plan for salvation. He gave of his time and finances in many worthwhile causes. He shared his faith and talents in many community committees. He was a good steward of the knowledge and finances God had given him. He will be missed greatly, but he is in heaven enjoying God’s reward for a life well lived!

Lee. Van Ringlestein - February 25, 2020 at 11:25 AM



“ Cory Van Gilst, so sorry for your loss.

Randy Newton - February 25, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ It was an honor to serve alongside Ken for a short period at Cedar Christian Reformed Church in 2007-2008. I will forever be grateful for his encouragement to serve a as a lay interim pastor in Cedar where I gained much wisdom from his leadership. I wish I could honor the Van Gilst family with my presence at this moment, but my prayers will be with you. May our Lord's comfort rest on all who must say this painful goodbye as we place our hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Phil Westra - February 25, 2020 at 10:15 AM



“ Many Cedar & Fremont area boys also benefitted from Ken's work for years as a boys' club church Cadet leader. Such work endures for lifetimes even, and Ken seemed tireless in pursuing good deeds in the Lord's service. An example of a vigorous faithful man who was a community asset always--and will be missed.

Harold Fynaardt - February 25, 2020 at 09:20 AM