



Kenneth "Ken" Waller

June 28, 1936 - August 2, 2024

Kenneth "Ken" Wayne Waller, age 88 of Durand, IL, passed away peacefully, with a view of his beloved pond and trees, on August 2, 2024. Ken was born June 28, 1936, at Swedish American hospital in Rockford, Illinois. His parents were Wayne and Gladys (Wise) Waller. He had one brother, Donald (Sally) Waller, who has preceded him in death.

Ken and Bev (Meier) Waller were married on June 15, 1957. They were high school sweethearts and had 67 wonderful years together while raising their four children: Bob, Ron, Rita, and Renee.

Ken worked for 34 years at Ingersoll's in Rockford before concluding his career working for Mueller Industries as an employee and a consultant.

Ken grew up and lived his whole life in Durand. In his early years, he could be found hanging out at the Haughton garage. This developed his love of motor vehicles and racing. His early pride and joy was his Harley motorcycle which he took around the backroads of Durand and was the transportation for his first date with Bev. Ken and Bev loved car racing. They attended many stock car races all over the country. For many years, they would drive to Florida each February to enjoy the Daytona 500. Ken raced go-karts himself. Eventually he turned the wheel over to his sons and spent years traveling thousands of miles across the country to race.

Ken was involved in many clubs and organizations: World Karting Association, Stateline Classic Car Club, Pheasants Forever, and various forestry programs. He was an Eagle Scout as well as a scout leader. This fueled his enjoyment for the outdoors, especially for trees. He and Bev planted over 12,000 seedlings at their current home on Farm School Road. His 'Pond' and 'Shed' have been the base camp for many fishing, skating, hunting, and storytelling adventures for family and friends. Ken was ever present riding in his Ranger around the property, constantly doing maintenance so that all could enjoy what he had created. The 'Shed' became the unofficial headquarters of the Knucklebumps Car Club. Ken loved the coffee, donuts, and community of these meetings. It also allowed him a place to share his mischievous and sharp sense of humor.

Ken was met by his son, Bob, in heaven.

Ken is survived by his wife, Bev, their children; Ron (Fiancé Dianna Bonny); Rita (Mike) Cornish and Renee (Dan) DeMus. He was blessed with seven grandchildren: Nichole (Jason) Purviance, Cole Waller, Gage Cornish, Mycah (Jack) Smith, Kyle (Autumn) DeMus, Tyler (Kelly) DeMus, and Abby (Adam) Bernardi; and eight great-grandchildren: Emmett, Atley, Emersyn, Atlas, Avery, Brooks, Kade, and Emery.

Ken cherished activities with his grandchildren and great grandchildren—being their greatest fan and supporter

A funeral service will be held promptly at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at the D.L. NEWCOMER FUNERAL HOME, 1105 E 9th Ave, Brodhead, WI. Friends may pay their respects to Ken and find seating for the service beginning at 10:00 a.m. until 10:25 a.m. Casual attire requested. Following the service, burial will commence at Durand Cemetery, Durand, IL.

Friends are welcome to visit with the family in a Celebration of Life honoring Ken beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Shed, 13050 Farm School Rd, Durand.

The DL Newcomer Funeral Home in Brodhead is assisting the family. Online condolences may be left at www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com. 608-897-2484

In lieu of flowers, memorials to Ken's family will be applied to various charities, clubs, and nature conservation efforts that were close to Ken's heart.

Cemetery Details

Durand Cemetery

Durand, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 6. 10:00 AM - 10:25 AM (CT)

D. L. Newcomer Funeral Home
1105 E 9th Ave
Brodhead, WI 53520
(608) 897-2484
morguemanager@yahoo.com
<https://www.dlnewcomerfuneralhome.com/>

Service

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Tribute Wall

TF

“ My earliest memories of Ken (Mr. Waller at that time) were from Sugar River Raceway. He & Bev were at the track on weekends. I believe he drove a King Kart with a Hagar belt drive. He was a master at leaning over into the turns as he drifted thru them. Then I knew him as Bobby's dad, as Bobby and I became friends and competitors in the junior classes at SRR. Then I knew him as a great crew chief, as Bobby became a multiple national WKA go kart champion. Unfortunately , then I knew him as a bereaved father, who had lost his son to a racing accident. In still later years, when my dad died, I knew him as a friend of my mom's, reaching out to support her in her time of need. The last time I saw Ken was at an SRR Vintage race, he had come to the track to see his son Bobby's last go kart, make some laps at SRR and to talk with long time karting friends.



Ken lived a long life. I pray he is resting in peace. He will always be remembered in the hearts of his family and friends. 🙏

Tim Fairman - August 07, 2024 at 02:54 PM

WM

“ The Durand area was a better place because Ken was there. He "got involved", pulled more than "his share" and did it in a manner that inspired others. Heartfelt prayers for his family and friends as they mourn his passing. See you in Heaven, Ken.....
Warren & Linda

Warren McCosky - August 06, 2024 at 08:58 AM

JC

“ Jeff C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth "Ken" Waller.

Jeff C. - August 06, 2024 at 07:25 AM

TF

“ What a great man and a great family!!! Thoughts and prayers with you as you celebrate such a special life !!

The Doetch Family - August 05, 2024 at 07:54 PM

NT

“ Many memories of tagging along to the go cart races in Broadhead, WI with my childhood bestie, Rita. The Waller home was my second home as neighbors.

I'm sure Milt & Marlene Truesdale welcomed him with open arms in heaven too. Grief never ends, we just learn to live with it.

Nancy Truesdale-Smaby

Nancy Truesdale-Smaby - August 05, 2024 at 01:07 PM

PS

“ Paige Ann & Jim Getz, Nancy & Tim Smaby purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Waller.



Paige Ann & Jim Getz, Nancy & Tim Smaby - August 05, 2024 at 12:59 PM

MF

“ *Much love, Chuck & Terry Morris & family purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Waller.*



Much love, Chuck & Terry Morris & family - August 05, 2024 at 12:39 PM

AC

“ *Aunts, Uncles, Cousins planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth "Ken" Waller.*

Aunts, Uncles, Cousins - August 05, 2024 at 12:14 PM

AC

“ *Aunts, Uncles, Cousins purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Waller.*



Aunts, Uncles, Cousins - August 05, 2024 at 12:14 PM

CF

“ *Cozad family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth "Ken" Waller.*

Cozad family - August 05, 2024 at 08:28 AM

CF

“ Cozad family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Waller.



Cozad family - August 05, 2024 at 08:28 AM

JG

“ My sympathy to Bev and family. I wish you comfort and peace knowing he had such a full and happy life. Cherish your memories.

Janet Green - August 05, 2024 at 08:07 AM

CS

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Ken's passing. I can see Ken and Bev cheering in the stands of DHS events from my high school years and into my children's, as well. I still remember his encouraging words to my son, Zac, at his HS basketball games. I've been away from the area awhile now, but this couple will always hold a special place in my heart.

Connie KinCannon Schafer - August 04, 2024 at 09:31 PM

JW

“ When I was a kid, Uncle Ken helped my dad and I purchase and assemble a go-kart and engine. Dad and I were trying to find a way to mount the engine but didn't have clearance due to a small gas tank mounted to the seat back. Being a kid, one of my brilliant ideas was to mount the 3.5 hp, 4 cycle, Briggs and Stratton engine backwards on the motor mount....I remember Ken saying, "It's a good thing you didn't do that. It would have only run in reverse.".....Oh yeah, we knew that.....

Joseph Waller - August 04, 2024 at 05:41 PM

JG

“ *The Waller household has been a second home for me. I will always remember the 4th of July fireworks "fight" between the Waller's and Kloster's. It's a memory that I cherish.*

Ken was an incredible person and will deeply be missed. If you need anything, whether it's a listening ear or a helping hand, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here for you.

*Love,
Julie*

Julie Gracyalny - August 04, 2024 at 05:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Ken" Waller.*



August 04, 2024 at 05:11 PM