



Ken Harkness

August 28, 1938 - January 30, 2024

Ken Harkness, 85, a lifelong resident of East Peoria, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, at his home. He was born in Peoria on August 28, 1938, to Kenneth R. and Bernice (Byers) Harkness. He married his wife of nearly 60 years, Laurie Wascher, in Metamora on February 8, 1964; she survives.

Also surviving are his two children, Leanne Harkness of Washington and Cori Harkness of East Peoria; 3 grandsons, Skylr (Tiera) Harkness, Chaddam (Kayla) Harkness, and Nigel Harkness; granddaughter, Sydney (Matt) Ryan; and 3 great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Shirl Fletcher.

Ken graduated with the East Peoria Community High School Class of 1956, where he ran track and still holds the record in the 880 Relay. He went on to run track at Bradley University for two more years. Ken proudly served in the Army Reserves for seven years and retired as a network analyst for Caterpillar after 24 years.

He was an active member of St. Monica Catholic Church in East Peoria and Knights of Columbus Msgr. E. L. Grzybowski Council.

Visitation will be from 4-6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 7, 2024, at Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria. A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at St. Monica Catholic Church in East Peoria, with additional visitation from 9:30 a.m. until the time of service. Father John Steffen will officiate. Entombment will follow at

Resurrection Mausoleum in Peoria.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Monica Catholic Church or Moms Who Care at EPCHS. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDietersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery & Mausoleum

7519 N. Allen Road
Peoria, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 7. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services Inc. - East Peoria
444 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL 61611

Visitation

FEB 8. 9:30 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Monica's Catholic Church
303 Campanile
East Peoria, IL

Funeral Mass

FEB 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Monica's Catholic Church
303 Campanile
East Peoria, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Ken Harkness



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - February 12, 2024 at 03:08 PM

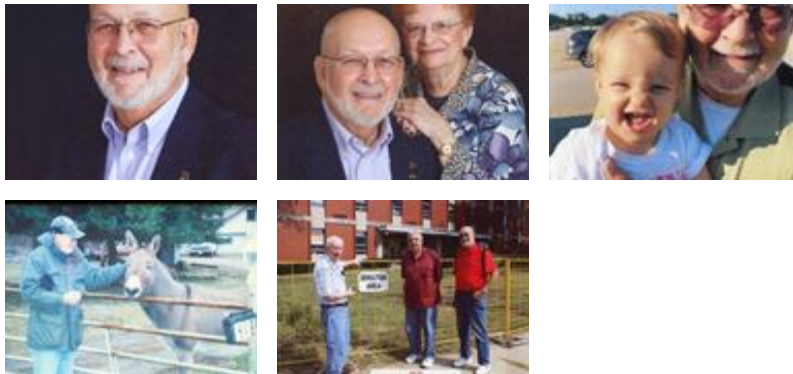
CH

“ Dear Laurie ,Leanne , Cori. Please accept our condolences at the loss of a wonderful husband and Father.We will be unavailable to attend vistration or funeral because of sickness. Our prayers will be shared. Love CAROL and DEAN. May GOD BLESS 🙏🙏

carol and dean Hild - February 07, 2024 at 03:56 PM



“ 30 files added to the album Life Tributes



Gary Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services - February 06, 2024 at 11:09 AM

JS

“ So sad to hear about this. Mr. Harness was such a good man, he will be missed by so many. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Jodi Stumpf-Vason - February 05, 2024 at 09:50 PM

TF

“ The Berg family purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Ken Harkness.



The Berg family - February 05, 2024 at 08:44 AM

SR

“ Kenny was our Best Man and was always there for us/and my Jim to the very end! You were the best! Love you and miss you !!!
Sandy Ranney

Sandy Ranney - February 04, 2024 at 08:22 AM

SR

“ Sandy Ranney lit a candle in memory of Ken Harkness



Sandy Ranney - February 04, 2024 at 08:20 AM

LF

“ Love Your Busy Corner Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ken Harkness.



Love Your Busy Corner Family - February 03, 2024 at 10:17 AM

LS

“ Louie & Bernice Sommer lit a candle in memory of Ken Harkness



Louie & Bernice Sommer - February 02, 2024 at 03:16 PM

LS

Kenny was a great person and was the Hub of the class of 56 and kept them all together. Thanks Kenny for all your work and hope we all honor him by keeping the 3rd Friday going. RIP friend

Louie & Bernice Sommer - February 02, 2024 at 03:20 PM

MH

*Kenny was a good friend in grade school years. We shared many a good time on Springfield Road. In later years he kept me informed of class activities. He will be missed?
Mike Humphrey*

Michael Humphrey - February 10, 2024 at 06:46 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ken Harkness.*



February 02, 2024 at 02:17 PM



“ *Your Caterpillar Illustrations Family planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Ken Harkness.*

Your Caterpillar Illustrations Family - February 02, 2024 at 02:17 PM