



Kenneth Lee Koestner

February 5, 1937 - August 31, 2024

Kenneth Lee Koestner, 87, of Peoria, peacefully passed away on Saturday, August 31, 2024, at Lutheran Hillside Village in Peoria. He was born in Peoria on February 5, 1937, to John and Idell (Krempp) Koestner. A lifelong resident of East Peoria, Ken married the love of his life, Gretchen McReynolds on December 29, 1958, in Peoria. Together, they raised 5 daughters.

Ken had a long career at Caterpillar, starting as a detailer and retiring as a senior checking engineer, but he was probably best known for the caricature art he was asked to produce of his colleagues at their retirements.

Ken's "girls" thought their dad could do anything he set his mind to. He built his family a house in East Peoria, where he and Gretchen lived until moving into assisted living in 2022. He loved to work with his gigantic, gentle hands--skilled in building, gardening, woodworking, and painting artwork.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Gretchen; his daughters, Amy (Raymond) Bernovich of Farmington, Libby (Joel) Lindsey of Washburn, and Wendy (Jonathan) Norvell of Monticello; his siblings, Jack, Mary, Judy, and Sally; grandchildren, Joshua (Mary) Rosecrans, Jonah (Kelly) Rosecrans, Alison (Andrew) Butler, Jesse Burford, Hollie (Alex) Harpenau, Dana (Paul) Minder, Matthew Norvell, and Michael (Ciena) Norvell; son-in-law, Greg Rosecrans and 11 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his 2 daughters, Heidi Rosecrans and Margaret Koestner.

Visitation will be held from 1-2 p.m. on Friday, September 6, 2024, at Gary

Deiters Funeral Home & Cremation Services in East Peoria, with a graveside service following at Fondulac Cemetery in East Peoria. Joel Lindsey will officiate.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Lutheran Hillside Village Foundation. Online condolences may be left at www.GaryDeitersFH.com.

Cemetery Details

Fondulac Cemetery

1985 E. Washington Street
East Peoria, IL

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

SEP 6. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Graveside Service

SEP 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

Fondulac Cemetery
2000 E. Washington St.
East Peoria, IL

Tribute Wall



“ *Heartfelt condolences go out to Gretchen and and the immediate family in regards to Ken's passing. He was a heck of a guy.* ”



Denise Johnson - September 05, 2024 at 05:39 PM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Kenneth Lee Koestner.* ”



September 05, 2024 at 11:03 AM