

Obituaries

Keith Vande Krol

On June 24, 1944, Keith Dwayne Vande Krol was born on a farm at New Sharon, Iowa, to Glen and Nola Fern (Monsma) Vande Krol. Keith began his education at the Lynn Grove No. 7 Country School near Taintor, Iowa, and graduated from Lynnville-Sully High School in Sully, Iowa, with the Class of 1962. At the young age of just 16, his life was changed when his father, Glen, passed away suddenly at the age of 43 years. Keith loved the farm and loved being outdoors, but living on the farm ended when his father passed away. In 1965, Keith enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He served as a communication specialist at the Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha, Nebraska during the Vietnam War and was discharged in March of 1967. He later enrolled at Central College in Pella, Iowa, where he attended for two years and pursued a mortuary science degree.

On May 17, 1968, Keith and Nellie Joan Verhoef were united in marriage at the First Christian Reformed Church in Pella. Keith and Joan were blessed with two children, Keith Dwayne on October 9, 1970, and Teresa Lanell on August 25, 1972. Dwayne and Teri's fondest memories of their dad was his devoted support for them and his pride in their accomplishments, as well as his sense of humor. Keith had a magnetic personality that augmented a successful career in sales. He was a salesman for Van Gorp Manufacturing in Pella and then became the first employee for Precision Pulley. Keith saw Precision Pulley grow and enhanced its growth from its beginning in 1978. He became the sales manager and

helped build the company to its present level of success. Keith's last employment was with Superior Equipment in Morris, Minnesota.

In October of 1998, Keith was diagnosed with brain cancer. This diagnosis forced an early retirement. Keith was the master of one liners, stories, and jokes, and coped with his diagnosis by writing a booklet which was an inspiration to others. He was also an inspiration by visiting those who were sick and in the nursing home. He would often provide pet therapy by taking his golden retriever, Bailly, to visit in the Long Term Care Unit at the Pella Regional Health Center in Pella where his faithful wife, Joan, was a Director of Nursing. Keith strongly believed that to get through the hard times in life, you had to have four things: 1. Faith in God, 2. Positive attitude, 3. Sense of humor, 4. Support of family and friends. He enjoyed reading, Southern gospel music, and spending time with family and friends. Special times were spent with his sister-in-law and brother-in-law, Jeanette and Roger Jansen, and friends, Tim and Joan Lucas.

Keith loved the Lord and accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior as a youth while attending the Sully Gospel Chapel and was baptized at Rock Creek Lake. He cherished his dad's Bible and devotional books. Keith was a member of the Liberty Evangelical Free Church at Pella.

On Thursday morning, October 15, 2009, Keith passed away at his residence at the age of 65 years. Keith was dutifully and lovingly cared for by his wife of 41 years, Joan, and leaves his two wonderful children, their spouses and four beautiful granddaughters: K. Dwayne and Lori (Mattusch) Vande Krol and Emma Kay and Josie Grace of Clive, Iowa; Teri and Jason

Petrin and Elizabeth Katherine and Gabrielle Marie of Woodbury, Minnesota. Keith is survived by his mother, Nola, and step-father Keith Emmert of Pella; his older special sister, Dorothy (Vande Krol) and her husband, Merlyn Vander Leest of Pella; a younger twin sister and brother, Judy (Vande Krol) and her husband, David Minnick of Nevada, Iowa and Jerry Vande Krol of Manson, Iowa. He also leaves his father-in-law, William Verhoef of Pella and the following brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Bill and Shirley Verhoef of Otley, Iowa; Jeanette (Verhoef) and Roger Jansen of Pella; Harry and Linda Verhoef of Pella; Marjorie (Verhoef) and Mark Van Haaften of Otley. In addition, Keith is survived by the following step-sisters and step-brothers: Jan (Emmert) and Rich Yost living in Florida; Jo (Emmert) and Joe Julian living in Colorado; Jim and Karen Emmert living in Pella; Jeff and Susan Emmert living in Texas. There are many nieces and nephews, aunts and uncles and a host of friends. Keith was preceded in death by his father, Glen Vande Krol, on July 10, 1960, and his mother-in-law, Nellie (Griffioen) Verhoef on March 16, 1993.

Keith's life was marked by his strong faith, sense of humor, and courageous battle against his illness. Keith will forever be remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather. Arrangements by Van Dyk-Duven Funeral Home, Pella, Iowa. Online condolences may be made at www.vandykduven.com

Funeral services were held Monday, October 19, 2009 at 1:30 p. m. Liberty Evangelical Free Church, Pella, Iowa.

Memorials may be given for the Pella Regional Health Center for staff education programs.