



K.C. Diestler

February 8, 1938 - March 24, 2026

K.C. Diestler, 88, of Kearney passed away March 24, 2026 at Good Samaritan Society - St. John's in Kearney. Funeral services will be held 10:30 am, April 3, 2026, at the First Presbyterian Church in Kearney. Burial with Military Honors provided by the Nebraska National Guard Funeral Honors Team, Kearney American Legion Post #52, and Kearney V.F.W. Post #759 will follow the service at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, April 2, 2026, at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services.

K.C. Diestler

1938 to 2026

Seymour High School, Seymour WI

Moorpark College, Moorpark CA

K.C. was born February 8th 1938 in New London, WI to Kathryn and Kermit Diestler Sr. He had 2 sisters, his oldest sister Sharon from his mothers first marriage and a younger sister Mary, from when Kathryn was remarried to Vernon Blake.

K.C. spent his youth fishing in the lakes and rivers and hunting in the woods around his hometown. You could also catch him playing ice hockey on the frozen rivers and lakes in the winter or playing basketball with his friends at the community center.

As a young adult he moved to Camarillo CA to be close to his family. While there he worked as a firefighter. He was drafted into the Army in 1961. While in the service he was a medic and a surgical/doctor's assistant during his deployment.

After leaving the service he returned to Camarillo where he met and soon married Karen, his wife of 61 years. During this time he worked as firefighter and as a Juvenile Behavioral Specialist at the Camarillo State Hospital.

In 1973 his life lead him and Karen to return to Kearney, Nebraska. He soon found himself working for Karen's father Emil Tollefsen at Western Auto, the family's store.

During his time in the family business, he transformed it into one of the most respected bike shops in the Midwest. Over his years as the "Bike Guy" he literally touched the life of almost every person in the Buffalo County area.

In 1980 he and Karen welcomed a son, Justin into their family through adoption. In 1982 they adopted a daughter, Kristina. K.C. always said it wasn't him and Karen adopting children but Justin and Kristina adopting them as parent. His wife and children were his heart and soul.

In his later years his love grew to encompass his grandchildren, Kristina's boys Brandon, Berkley and Booker and Justin's daughters Kaiya and Kili.

During his entire life K.C. had a great love for animals, from his pet wolf and black bear during his youth to all the dogs, big and small over the years.

You could always find a smile on his face and a warm handshake.

He was preceded into God's care by his younger sister Mary, mother Kathryn, step father Vern and recently by his oldest sister Sharon.

He is survived by his wife Karen, son Justin his wife Amber and their children Kaiya, Kili and a Husky named Luna, daughter Kristina her husband Russ and boys Brandon, Berkley and Booker.

He also leaves behind several nieces, Kathie, Debbie, Laurie, Yvonne, and Melissa and their children.

We love you dad...

... Grieve not,
nor speak of me with tears,
but laugh and talk of me
as if I were beside you...
I loved you so —
'twas Heaven to here with you.

Isla Paschal Richardson

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

APR 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4511 6th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall

RF

“ Karen

Sorry to hear about KC. I was a Spec 5 in his military unit - 355th Hospital. He was under my command at one of the last encampments we had at Fort Lewis Washington.

I told you once you were a sweetheart - still have fond memories.

*I live in Pine Grove CA. Tara and I have two daughters and a son, three grand kids. We moved here in 1972 and love the foot hills. I'm in good health but turn 88 this month. Still remember the last time we talked at the office you worked at in Camarillo. Wishing you well.
Bob Farish.*

Robert Farish - May 02 at 06:47 PM

CW

“ *I just adored K.C. when he would come into the store I worked at (which was a lot when his shop was down town.) He had the best smile and the best fishing stories. I could really tell how much he loved his wife, kids, and grandkids. I thought after the transplant, he'd have so much more time with everyone he loved. He will be so missed. Sincerely, Codie Wilson*

Codie Wilson - April 06 at 06:41 AM

NC

“ *K.C. you were a good man with a very kind heart. You were always very nice to me. I am honored to have known you. May you rest in peace. Sincerely, Nicole Carey*

Nicole Carey - April 03 at 02:40 PM

AS

“ Dear Karen, Justin, Kristina and families,

I remember KC's smile as our neighbor at the shoe store and in the neighborhood. It was truly infectious! I remember well the yellow Schwinn with the banana seat that was my very first bike. It was a pleasure knowing K.C. May God surround you with memories of the good times you all had together.

Andy Stadler - April 02 at 12:30 PM

KD

“ *I miss you so much already, grandpa. I'm sorry things went the way they did for you in the end. :(At least you left for Heaven knowing how much everyone in your life loved and cared about you, especially Grandma. She misses you terribly, too.*

I will always love you with all of my heart, just like you did. ☐

Love, Kaiya

Kaiya Diestler - March 31 at 07:53 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of K.C. Diestler.*



March 30 at 04:33 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of K.C. Diestler.

March 30 at 04:33 PM