



Karl Jay Borden

December 16, 1946 - June 7, 2023

Karl J. Borden, 76, of Gibbon, Nebraska passed away on June 7, 2023 at his home, surrounded by family. A celebration of life will be 2:00 pm, July 30, 2023 at the Kearney Country Club. Memorials are suggested to the Gibbon Volunteer Fire Department.

Karl was born on December 17th, 1946 in Akron, Ohio. He is preceded in death by his parents, Merle and Morris, and infant son Paul. He is survived by his wife Sandra, sons Jason, Mark and Jacob, and daughter Anna, and seven grandchildren.

Raised in Cleveland, Ohio on the shores of Lake Erie with his younger siblings, Carol and Jack, Karl loved to ride in his father's Buick Roadmaster convertible. Later in life, Karl refurbished 1947 and 1948 Roadmasters, in loving memory of his father.

Karl attended Hebron high school in Maine and was a track star, specializing in the 440-yard dash and 4x440 relay. He attended college at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, and graduated in 1968 after also winning a scholarship to the London School of Economics. While in London pursuing a degree in History, Karl enjoyed full access to all records contained in the British Museum. Karl would later receive his doctorate in Education from the University of Massachusetts in 1975 and an MBA from the University of

Cincinnati in 1984.

At the age of 15, Karl first saw his future wife, Sandra Leigh, as she was drinking from a fountain in Davison, Michigan. Karl and Sandra would marry in 1969 in Wilmette, Illinois and would have celebrated their 54th anniversary on August 9th. Over their marriage, they would traverse the country, from Minnesota to Massachusetts, Idaho to Ohio. They finally settled in Gibbon and have been residents for the past 30 years.

With boundless energy, Karl juggled two careers as a serial entrepreneur and an academic. While living in Omaha in the mid 80's, Karl ran multiple companies while commuting to Kearney State College (now UNK) to teach courses in finance. In 1990, Karl accepted a fulltime position at UNK, and the family moved to Gibbon, NE. Karl believed in excellence in education and was able to require his students to achieve financial knowledge and skills. He was respected by colleagues and students and served on a variety of committees. He was an ardent supporter of freedom and capitalism.

He was a pillar of the community as a member of the Rotary Club, doing a humanitarian mission to Bangladesh on his sabbatical, and anonymously contributing his time and money to countless community members in need. Karl's interests and hobbies were as broad as they were deep, and he never wasted an opportunity to try anything new. Karl loved to play racquetball, was a collector of glass animals, and could regularly be found playing poker with friends at the Gibbon Legion. Karl also had a soft spot for hard-luck sports franchises, especially the Cleveland Indians, the Browns, and the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Karl was a proud husband and father who loved his family very much. Karl found ways to make the family cohesive by boating on summer weekends, organizing international vacations including a road trip to the Yucatan, winter

skiing and summer scuba, and taking each of his three adult sons on specifically tailored expeditions.

Karl never wanted thanks or praise, preferring to remain in the shadows content with having someone else get the credit. He will be missed by his family, students, business partners and colleagues.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

Gibbon, NE 68840

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL **30**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Kearney Country Club
2800 19th Ave.
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Karl Jay Borden.*



June 12, 2023 at 03:12 PM



“ *One of the things I always appreciated about Karl is his wide range of friends. He was friends (not just friendly) with people from all walks of life, and across the political spectrum. Except fools. He didn't suffer fools gladly.*

I was very proud to be his friend.

Joe B.

Joe Benz - June 10, 2023 at 04:49 PM



“ *I graduated from UNK in December 2019. Karl was one of the greatest influences during my time at UNK. He challenged me to think about the world in different ways. I would pop by his office to chat and he always welcomed me with a smile. I would not be where I am today without his guidance.*

Ryan Clark - June 10, 2023 at 08:41 AM

CM

“ I feel very proud to have had Karl as a friend. He was one of the most intelligent and accomplished friends I ever had and made me a part of his family. Nanny and I enjoyed several of his Thanksgiving dinners for the "orphans" of the Kearney area who were too far away to go home to their own families. What a warm and friendly experience that always was! Karl was rigorous as Finance teachers so often are but he was also quite unusually kind and compassionate. I remember he insisted on treating me and himself to shooting an elephant gun at a national machinegun festival. Like James Bond, he was a natural at everything he did. He was an excellent scholar and a very level-headed intellectual. He never ceased to go way out of his way to help people in need of his help.

Craig Sutcliffe Marxsen - June 09, 2023 at 10:05 PM

TD

“ I'm an international student of class 2014 from Dr. Borden's class. He really helps me a lot not only in academic, but for my life experience.
I have plan travel to US to visit him in this August.
Dr. Borden, Rest in peace and thank you so much.

Ting Ding

Ting Ding - June 09, 2023 at 09:57 PM



“ Mrs. Fields Thinking of You Combo Tin was purchased for the family of Karl Jay Borden.



June 09, 2023 at 09:55 PM

CT

“ *Cyndie Talarico lit a candle in memory of Karl Borden*



Cyndie Talarico - June 09, 2023 at 09:34 AM

JR

I took Dr. Borden's Finance class in Fall of 1995 and then just this past Fall in my Master's Finance Class. I enjoyed his lectures. He was one of my favorite teachers even though I spent the most time studying for those classes than any other I have taken. Prayers for his family and friends.

Joni Ruth - June 13, 2023 at 12:18 PM