



Kent C. Emal

February 27, 1941 - March 16, 2018

Kent C. Emal, 77 of Kearney, was surrounded by his family as he went to be with his Lord on Friday, March 16, 2018 at the Good Samaritan Society – St. Luke's in Kearney. Celebration of Life Services will be Friday, March 23, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. at the Living Faith Fellowship Church in Kearney. Rev. Duane Osnes will officiate. Graveside services and burial will follow at 1:30 p.m. at the Minden, Nebraska Cemetery. Visitation is planned Thursday, March 22, 2018 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney and also 1 hour prior to services at the church on Friday. Memorials are suggested to the family for the development of the Kent Emal Communication Disorders Scholarship at the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services are in charge of arrangements.

Kent was born on February 27, 1941 to Clayton and Frances (Anderson) Emal of Minden. He graduated from Minden High School in 1959 and then went on to earn his degree in business from Kearney State College in 1963. After college, he taught for two years at Hebron High School before moving to Denver, CO to attend the University of Denver for his Master's Degree in Speech Language Pathology. After graduation, he moved back to Kearney to accept a position at Kearney State College as an Assistant Professor of Communication Disorders. He continued his education at UNL where he

completed work for a doctorate, but due to health issues, never completed his dissertation.

While teaching at Kearney State College, he met Karen (Junker) and they dated for 11 years, before they were united in marriage on August 14, 1982. Kent and Karen welcomed their first daughter, Jamie, on December 16, 1983. Their second daughter, Sarah, arrived on March 20, 1986. Kent also has a biological son, Doug, born on November 11, 1963.

Kent taught for the Communication Disorders Department at KSC/UNK for 41 years, beginning in 1967 and retiring in 2008. He continued to teach a CDIS class through 2009, before fully stepping away from teaching and education. He was pivotal in the grant and design of the Speech-Language-Hearing bus, and impacted thousands of students. He was a member of the Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association and was humbled when he received honors from the organization. He was also a member of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association and was a strong advocate for stutterers and was part of the National Stuttering Association. Throughout his years at KSC/UNK, Kent loved to attend as many Loper events as possible with his family. After retirement, Kent found enjoyment in driving a RYDE bus. His favorite part was getting to pick up and drop off kids for school.

Kent faced many health battles, from heart disease, strokes and dementia, but always had a positive outlook on life and his family motto has always been "Chin up". Despite his health, he loved traveling with his family and made it to all 50 states; his last state to visit was Alaska, which instantly became his favorite. He also traveled to many international destinations with his sister, Janice; Morocco and Switzerland being the ones he spoke of most often.

Kent's faith and family were the most important things in his life. He was a lifelong member of the First Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, first in

Minden and later in Kearney, and he also became a member of Living Faith Fellowship Church in Kearney. Kent enjoyed his family traditions of season tickets to Husker football games, making potato bologna every Christmas, playing Som-R-Set at any get together, Storm Hockey games and movie nights at home with popcorn.

He loved Kearney and was an active community member prior to his health deteriorating. He volunteered for the United Way of Kearney and was a member of the Elks until his death.

Surviving relatives include his loving wife Karen of Kearney; daughters Jamie Hiemke, husband Aaron, and Sarah Bartling, husband Andrew, both of Kearney; biological son Doug Larson, wife Crissa, of Haxtun, CO; grandchildren Macie Bartling, Baby Hiemke, Carly Daniel and Josh Larson; and many family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, numerous aunts, uncles and friends.

Cemetery Details

Minden Cemetery

Minden, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 22. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Celebration of Life

MAR 23. 10:30 AM (CT)

Living Faith Fellowship Church
3311 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Graveside

MAR 23. 1:30 PM (CT)

Minden Cemetery
Minden, NE

Tribute Wall



“ *Kent C. Emal*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Kent made my life better as I am sure he did for many others. He was my mentor, teacher, speech therapist, and friend. In my freshman year of college I stuttered severely and met him for a speech evaluation. He made me feel accepted from day one and guided me over many semesters to be a more effective communicator. Eventually with his support I went into speech language pathology and am now a professor in this area. Kent's passion for teaching and helping people truly made a difference. He will never be forgotten. Eric Swartz*

Eric Swartz - March 23, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *Kent was roommate and friend who visited me several times during my cancer recovery..we had great times at Country Side where he owned a mobile home and I was a renter and roommate for over a year. He also was my professor in speech pathology..and taught much..will not make service but Will never forget!!!...Ben Morey🥹*

Ben Morey - March 22, 2018 at 09:59 AM

DF

“ Here is to the person who confirmed my belief that Speech-Language Pathology was the profession for me. I will never forget learning about communication disorders in the living room of the house that served as the Speech-Language Hearing clinic and classroom on the corner east of Centennial Towers East. Loved his classes, loved his passion! Rest In Peace Kent Emal. Know you made a difference!

Diane Farrand - March 21, 2018 at 09:28 PM

JG

“ Kent was a teacher, mentor, colleague, and friend. One of the kindest, most gentle men I've had the pleasure to know. His sharp wit and humor always brightened a cloudy day. You will be missed by many, Kent. Karen and girls, may you find peace in the many wonderful memories. Thinking of you in sympathy and friendship.

Jana Green - March 21, 2018 at 10:55 AM

GB

“ So many special memories of us together in our younger years. We built an entire town in your cellar for our match box cars. Many trips to the pool on your bike - got my foot caught in the spokes once. We would get high hats on the way. You taught me how to jitterbug in your Mom's kitchen to the song Sixteen Tons - nice and slow so I could learn the steps. You took me to my first teenage dance. Hug Janice and your Mom & Dad for me, and my Mom & Dad as well. We'll be joining you later on. Love you Cuz. Gena

Gena Bigornia - March 20, 2018 at 09:54 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kent C. Emal.*



March 20, 2018 at 09:52 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy and condolences to Karen and children. Kent was a loyal and kind friend. He shared a delightful sense of humor. He will be greatly missed.*

Glen Powell - March 20, 2018 at 03:38 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kent C. Emal.*



March 20, 2018 at 03:20 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Karen and the girls. Kent was a leader in his profession and respected by his students. He was devoted to his family and those seeking to help others.*

Melodee Hauserman - March 20, 2018 at 01:05 PM

LZ

“ Love you, Uncle Paul, Aunt Julie and Katie Zucker purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kent C. Emal.



Love you, Uncle Paul, Aunt Julie and Katie Zucker - March 20, 2018 at 12:35 PM

JM

“ My husband, Earl, and I bowled on a league with Kent and Karen. We enjoyed it a lot and through the years we have visited with them when we saw them in the stores. They were a very sweet couple and I will miss him, but look forward to see Karen and visiting with her. Jo!

Jo Mizner - March 19, 2018 at 08:44 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kent C. Emal.



March 19, 2018 at 05:04 PM

RG

“ Kent and his folks loved New York City and visited my family there several times. Kent's favorite thing in New York was the absence of enforcement of minor traffic issues. He felt like making a U turn across a double line was more fun than humans should be allowed to have. They loved the city as demonstrated by their repeat visits. Kent will always be remembered fondly and missed greatly.
Ron Gliates

Ron Gliates - March 19, 2018 at 03:53 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Kent C. Emal.



March 19, 2018 at 03:40 PM



“ Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." was purchased for the family of Kent C. Emal.



March 19, 2018 at 01:14 PM

BB

“ Kent was a great man and great father. His family was very blessed along with many who knew him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family.



Brent Bauer - March 19, 2018 at 11:15 AM

JE

“ He was a great teacher. I had always loved his sense of humor! Thoughts and prayers to the family.
Jessica Thoene



jessica - March 18, 2018 at 08:49 PM

JP

“ I'M JONI PETERSON I RECENTLY MOVED KEARNEY FROM OMAHA HE ASKED ME TO COME TO HIS CLASS TO DEMO MY NEW COMMUNICATION DEVICE WHICH ACTUALLY TALKS HE MADE ME VERY COMFORTABLE IN FRONT OF 20 PEOPLE WHO ARE NOW SPEECH THERAPISTS SOMEPLACE. I KINDA ADOPTED PICKED HIM AS MY KEARNEY HE DID ADOPTED ME IN



JONI PETERSON - March 18, 2018 at 01:03 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Kent C. Emal.



March 17, 2018 at 07:08 PM