



Kent E. Lilly

December 9, 1946 - August 25, 2019

Kent E. Lilly, age 72, of Kearney, passed away on Sunday, August 25, 2019 at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Memorial services will be on Thursday, August 29, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Kearney. Revs. Nancy Tuma and Jerry Bady will officiate and burial will be at Kearney Cemetery with military honors by the Kearney American Legion Post #52, Kearney V.F.W. Post #759 and the United States Air Force Funeral Honors Team. Visitation with family will be on Wednesday, August 28, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the church. Memorials are suggested to Kearney Elks Lodge # 984, Nebraska Children's Home, First Presbyterian Church, and C.A.S.A. of Buffalo County. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Arrangements are under the direction of Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney.

Kent was born on December 9, 1946 in Hastings, NE to Lester I. and Mary E. (Baker) Lilly. He attended Grand Island High School and graduated in 1965. He then attended the Grand Island Business School and graduated in 1966 with a degree in accounting. Kent enlisted with the United States Air Force in 1967 and served for 4 years while stationed in North Carolina as an accounting specialist. Upon his discharge from the Air Force he attended Kearney State College and earned a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration. He married JoAnn Williamson on April 23, 1967 in Orchard,

NE. Kent served the State of Nebraska as a State Probation Officer in Kearney. He was appointed a Chief Probation Officer in 1979 serving 9 Nebraska counties in what was then referred to as Probation District #17. Following a restructure in the probation system, he served as Chief Deputy Probation Officer in District #9 serving Buffalo and Hall counties. He ended his decorated career in 2012 after 40 years of dedicated service. During his career he served on many committees both as an advisor and chair, including Region III Alcohol Advisory Services Board, Statewide policy procedure committee and many others. He was instrumental in helping write state-wide policies over the years. He also aided in establishing the Kearney Probation Reporting Center which now offers a wide variety of services to offenders. In 2006 he was awarded the Nebraska Probation System Supervisor of the Year award. Kent also served as a CASA volunteer and was awarded CASA volunteer of the year in 2019. Kent was an active member of First Presbyterian Church where he served as a Deacon and Elder. He also served as a Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop #136.

Surviving relatives include his wife, JoAnn Lilly of Kearney; son, Jerod and Samantha Lilly of Lincoln, NE; daughter, Heather and Dan Morrow of Kearney; grandchildren, Garrett Marshall and his significant other Kayla Lukens, Drew Morrow and Jacob Morrow; great granddaughter, Ava Marshall; many other nieces, nephews and other extended family and friends.

Kent was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Wanda Yost and her husband Jim; brother, Ron Lilly and his wife Marlene; niece, KoAnn Lawrence

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 28. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4511 6th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68845

Memorial Service

AUG 29. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4511 6th Avenue
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ *Kent E. Lilly*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *JoAnn - so sorry to hear of Kent's death. I hope you will find comfort in wonderful memories and the love of family and friends. With prayers and sympathy, Kent and Linda Schroeder*

Linda Schroeder - August 30, 2019 at 08:51 AM



Thank you. Kent and Linda.

JoAnn Lilly - September 02, 2019 at 02:44 PM



“ *I had the joy of meeting Kent 5 years ago when he first came in for coffee at Hy-Vee. He came in as a customer but soon became a friend. I will miss his friendship dearly. May warm memories of someone very special bring you peace & comfort. There will an empty chair at the morning coffee & he will be missed very much.*



Sandy Roper - August 29, 2019 at 04:24 PM



Thank you so much Sandy! Love the candle! He spoke kindly of you often.

JoAnn Lilly - September 02, 2019 at 02:42 PM

KJ

“ My last memory is going to Five Points Movie and Kent was always there smiling when I came in and he and his wife always saying hello and making you feel welcome.

Karry L Jensen - August 29, 2019 at 10:12 AM

DL

“ Kent was a tremendous guy. There was none better. Helping each other with apartments and spending many New Year's Eve with Joan and him were some of the happiest memories of my life. Rest In Peace dear friend.

Dave Lieske - August 28, 2019 at 09:40 PM

EB

“ As a Chief Probation Officer, as a loving husband and father, and as a true gentleman, it was my privilege and honor to know Kent Lilly. A finer human being could not be found.

Ellen Fabian Brokofsky
Retired Nebraska State Probation Administrator

Ellen Fabian Brokofsky - August 28, 2019 at 09:05 PM

JL

Thank you Ellen!

JoAnn Lilly - September 02, 2019 at 02:43 PM

JP

“ I first met Kent in September of 1989 at new officer training at the State Capital he was the guest speaker for Pre Sentence Investigations one afternoon. Out of a class of 12 only 2 were from western Nebraska myself and Dan Schamihorn. He took us out to dinner and took the time to get us better acquainted with the Probation system.

While working in North Platte, I had numerous opportunities to work with him on different cases and committees. After 18 years I transferred I transferred to another district and Kent contacted me and we went to dinner again and continued to have contact with me.

Kent really spoke little of his personal life, but was very proud of Kearney High School for winning the State Championship.

Kent will be missed for his down to earth personality and kind demeanor. He will surely be missed by myself and others.

Jeff Peterson
Former Probation officer

Jeff Peterson - August 28, 2019 at 02:50 PM

JL

Thank you Jeff for the kind words!

JoAnn Lilly - September 02, 2019 at 02:46 PM

DF

“ Kent was a great community leader and did so much to help others, especially the children involved with CASA. What a wonderful Dad and Grandpa. May all your special memories help you through this sad time. He will be truly missed. Our sincere sympathy to your family.

Denny & LaVonne Fries - August 28, 2019 at 10:05 AM

JL

Thank you both!

JoAnn Lilly - September 02, 2019 at 02:46 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kent E. Lilly.*



August 27, 2019 at 07:08 PM



“ *Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Kent E. Lilly.*



August 27, 2019 at 02:53 PM

TA

“ *JoAnn,*

I was saddened to hear about Kent. I met both of you while working at DHHS, and remember him as a gentle man who was kind and always took the time to say hello. May wonderful memories of a life well lived help you through this time.



Tammey Frick

Tammey - August 27, 2019 at 12:22 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kent E. Lilly.



August 27, 2019 at 11:20 AM



“ Nebraska Chiefs purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kent E. Lilly.



Nebraska Chiefs - August 27, 2019 at 11:18 AM



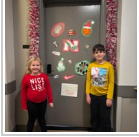
“ I am so sad about Kent's passing. He was my mentor and friend for 30 years. He was a great leader in Probation, one I knew I could always count on. He lead by example and never expected his Officers to do something he wasn't doing himself. He was respected and loved. We had so many laughs over the years about the crazy things that could happen. He could tell a great story and had a great sense of humor. I wish his well deserved retirement could have been longer. He certainly earned it. Joan, Heather and Jerrod, I am so sorry. God Bless you all

Linda Green - August 27, 2019 at 09:49 AM



Thank you Linda for coming and visiting. It meant a lot to him.

JoAnn Lilly - September 02, 2019 at 02:43 PM



“ *Kent did a lot of good for many people and his community and state. May his memory be eternal.*

Tim O'Dea - August 27, 2019 at 09:34 AM

TG

“ *Twenty-some years of employment as a probation officer with Kent as the chief led to a successful career punctuated by a friendship filled with amusing experiences as well as serious situations.*

Joan, thank you for allowing me to come into your home for the many meals through the years. Heather, many years latter, Kent and I had a good laugh about the salt in the water prank at one of the meals! Jerrod, I was visiting your home when Jedi, the dog, brought me to tears with laughter as he raced around the furniture.

Kent possessed a leadership that one felt part of his extended family and a leader to his employees. The "Kents" in the world just don't come along everyday.

May God be with you .

Tom Gidley - August 26, 2019 at 09:38 PM

JL

Thank you for sharing the memories Tom! He always had kind words o speak of you!

JoAnn Lilly - September 02, 2019 at 02:43 PM

KW

“ *JoAnn and family,*

We were very saddened to hear of Kent's passing even though we knew it was inevitable. Kent was a good friend, coffee buddy and golfing partner; he will be missed terribly. Our thoughts and prayers to all.

Keith and Mary Wagner

Keith and Mary Wagner - August 26, 2019 at 06:27 PM

JL

*Thank you both for all you did during his fight!
. It meant a lot to have people take the time to come and see him as he was missing the contacts!*

JoAnn Lilly - September 02, 2019 at 02:49 PM