



## Lavern E. Deke

June 17, 1939 - November 11, 2020

Lavern E. Deke, 81, of Kearney, passed away Wednesday, November 11, 2020 at Kearney Regional Medical Center. Memorial services will be held 2:00 p.m., April 30, 2021 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kearney with Pastor John Rasmussen officiating. Burial with military rites provided by the United States Air Force Funeral Honors Team, Kearney American Legion Post #52, and Kearney V.F.W. Post #759 will be at the Kearney Cemetery. Memorials are suggested to the family to be designated later.

Lavern was born June 17, 1939 in Fairbury, Nebraska to Norbert and Marie Elena (Martens) Deke. He was Baptized at Grace Lutheran Church, Fairbury, and then Confirmed at Zion Lutheran Church in Shickley, Nebraska. Lavern graduated from Concordia High School in 1956 in Seward, Nebraska. Lavern joined the Air Force in 1962 and served for four years in Roswell, New Mexico during the Vietnam War. He married Betty Rahde in 1962 and had 3 sons. He farmed with his dad for several years and then helped erect grain bins and steel buildings with John Block Construction. He then was an insurance agent for Aid Association for Lutherans. Lavern was an avid coin collector and interested in Genealogy.

Lavern moved to Kearney in 1993 and worked for Epley Express and Navigator as a bus driver.

He married Jean Muller on October 29, 1994 in Kearney. Lavern cared for his

mother who moved to Kearney in 1996 until her death in 2001.

Lavern is survived by his sons, David A. Deke of Gretna, NE, Daniel D. Deke of Los Angeles, CA, Darin A. Deke of Evergreen, CO; grandson Hunter Deke of Gretna, NE, granddaughter Kaitlyn Deke of Gretna, NE; brother, Wilfred Deke of Beatrice, NE, sisters, Elaine Rahde of Council Bluffs, IA, Evelyn Yost of Glenwood, NM, Louise and Robert Wulf of Ohio, NE, Carol Collier of Bennett, NE; step-son Dan and Carol Gibbons of Desert Hot Springs, CA; step-daughters, Diana Jones of Kearney, NE; Kathy and Glen Schaffer of Boerne, TX., great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Lavern was preceded in death by his wife Jean and a niece and nephew.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

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

Holy Cross Lutheran  
3315 11th Avenue  
Kearney, NE

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lavern E. Deke*

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January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of my cousin Lavern passing. Prayers to all the family. He had just called me a couple of weeks ago and he did not tell me of any problems health wise so must of happened shortly after our conversation. He was planning a trip to Branson and probably would have came by to see me as I live in Nixa. I would stay in contact with you, the family but don't have any contact information. Please feel free to contact me. James and Carolyn Deke*

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**James Deke** - November 29, 2020 at 09:07 PM



“ *We met Lavern several years ago. For about 4 years, he took our church's Sunday School Christmas program to some local Long Term Care Homes in the area. The trolley ride was always so much fun. After the first year, we always requested that Lavern be our driver. He had quickly become our favorite. He was such a wonderful man, we were truly blessed to have known him.*

*Trinity Sunday School Children*

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**Patty** - November 20, 2020 at 09:48 AM

ML

“ We were saddened to hear of Vern's passing and we send prayers for those who mourn and that he may rest in peace. Vern was a good man. It was great to get to know him the past few years and he was a great friend of the family. We will miss his witty jokes. RIP Vern.

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**Matt Lewis** - November 19, 2020 at 12:46 PM

DT

“ To the family and friends of Lavern,

We will miss him at Orphan Grain Train in Grand Island. Lavern was a dedicated volunteer who served on our board of directors for many years and volunteered his time to help with construction of our building additions, with fish feeds and boxing clothes at our warehouse.

*Dick Troester  
Manager, Central Nebraska Branch*

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**Dick Troester** - November 18, 2020 at 11:59 AM

MT

“ Vern was a pretty good hearted man. I'll never forget his deep laugh. He's already missed by our McDonalds (now Burger King north) coffee group. He was a great Trump supporter and our group happy for him that he was able to make it to the Trump rally in Omaha a few weeks back.

*May he rest in peace.*

*Mr. Lynn Tacha  
1195 W. 92nd*

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**Mr. Lynn Tacha** - November 12, 2020 at 10:37 AM

CP

*Vern was a very good friend which I greatly miss. The only comfort is knowing he in heaven. I'm sure of his welcome there. Kay Pierce. St. Joseph MO*

**Carol Kay Pierce** - November 17, 2020 at 06:07 PM