



James Keith Rasmussen

February 29, 1924 - August 31, 2016

James Keith Rasmussen departed this life hearing the comforting words of Psalm 46 on Wednesday, August 31st at Manor Care Nursing Home in Kingsford, Michigan. Keith was born on February 29, 1924 in the small farming community of Jetmore, Kansas to the late Louis and Fern (Benge) Rasmussen. Keith was the second of four children and grew up helping his dad farm as well as learning from him how to be an excellent carpenter and proficient mechanic. Upon graduating from high school, Keith enlisted in the Navy and served in the Pacific fleet as a radio operator on the USS San Juan during World War II. After the war he came back to Jetmore and married Marcheta Hoagland in 1946. They moved to a farm near his parents and started their own business, K & M Dairy. Keith and Marcheta milked 48 cows, pasteurized and bottled the milk themselves and then sold it in local stores and door to door in Jetmore. While living on the farm they had four sons, Ric, Rod, Greg and Galen. He enjoyed teaching them how to build anything and how to work on machinery and vehicles. In the late fifties they sold the cows and moved into a house in town that he built himself. He continued to distribute milk around southwest Kansas through Fairmont Foods. Keith and Marcheta then had two daughters, Lisa and Lorna. Keith loved taking his children with him on the milk route and working alongside them on many building projects in the family shop. On the side, Keith was a repairman and was frequently called upon to fix refrigeration, plumbing, and a multitude of other jobs. In the early 70's Keith embarked on a business with their sons,

Four Sons Flying Service, a full service private aircraft fixed base operation in Dodge City, Kansas. Keith loved to fly and had gotten his private pilot's license as a young man and all of his sons are accomplished pilots.

Music and faith were always extremely important in Keith's life. He grew up playing the tenor sax and making music with his family. He and Marcheta were members of the Methodist church in Jetmore where they sang in the choir. He was a frequent soloist for countless weddings and funerals throughout the years. All his children learned instruments and sang together in church. Keith's deep bass voice was the solid foundation in a quintet with his grown sons.

In 1980 Keith and his sons sold the flying service and the family moved to western Colorado to fulfill a dream of playing music in the charming town of Ouray. For three summers Keith and his family presented the Rasmussen Family Show, a nightly musical variety show for the tourists of southwest Colorado. During those years Keith and two of his sons started a construction business in Ouray.

Keith and Marcheta retired to Montrose, Colorado. Keith always had a wonderful, adventurous spirit and the two enjoyed several years exploring the country and visiting family and friends. Marcheta passed from this life 10 years ago after 59 years together, but Keith continued their plans of traveling and visiting their children's families.

Keith married Fern Welch Fox in 2008 and they also enjoyed traveling. Keith and Fern resided in Colorado until he came to visit his daughter and son-in-law in Kingsford, Michigan the summer of 2014. Since that following winter Keith resided at Manor Care. He continued to enjoy music and visiting with his family.

In addition to his parents and wife, Marcheta, he was preceded in death by his two sisters, Dorlene Eichman, Joann Six, and brother, Bill Rasmussen.

Keith is survived by his wife Fern Fox Rasmussen of Loveland, Colorado, six children, Ric (Karen) of Grand Junction, Colorado, Rod (Karen) of Ouray, Colorado, Greg (Lynette) of Floyds Knobs, Indiana, Galen (Bonnie) of

Montrose, Colorado, Lisa Lowry (Kenneth) of Loveland, Colorado, and Lorna March (Michael) of Kingsford, Michigan, 20 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, two cousins and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral service for Keith will be held in Jetmore, Kansas.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial will be established in his memory.

Condolences to the family of James Keith Rasmussen may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

The family has entrusted Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the arrangements.

Tribute Wall

DJ

“ I will never forget the memories, of visiting ouray Colorado in the summer of 1980 & 1981, and going to the Rasmussen family show. Our family is from Kansas city, and we have wonderful memories of ouray Colorado,when I was growing up. We always looked forward going to the Rasmussen show, and the San Juan odessey, and going jeeping in the mountains.

Thanks for the memories.

Doug Jones - October 01, 2020 at 09:21 PM

DT

“ Keith wasn't afraid to tackle and experience adventure....so talented. He left his legacy not only in the Jetmore community but everywhere he went. He sang at my wedding 52 years ago, but then again whose wedding didn't he sing at??? My condolences to all the families and honoring your memories.

*Doreen Bristow Timken
Ellis, Kansas*

Doreen Timken - September 16, 2016 at 09:57 AM

BB

“ With sympathy I want to let all of you know that I'm thinking of you at this time of sorrow. I grew up in Jetmore and remember many family dinners and musical song fests with Keith and his family. He use to take me riding on his motorcycle where I would get burns from the exhaust. The Rasmussens were very special friends and I remember them fondly.

*In friendship,
Betty Lappin Bollinger - Port Washington, WI*

Betty Lappin Bollinger - September 09, 2016 at 03:01 PM

BW

“ So very sorry to hear of Keith's passing, He had a gentle soul and always made me feel welcome. May he rest in peace. One of Gods special Angels. Barb Wente-Linke

Barb Wente-Linke - September 08, 2016 at 10:11 PM

BC

“ My condolences to your family. Keith was such a vibrant, happy, caring man. He and Marcheta were great friends of my Mom and Dad. They raised a fantastic family. I can still hear that great voice echoing in the Methodist Church. Take solace that he and your Mother are together again, singing the praises. All good thoughts to you. Bobby Crabill and family.

Bobby Crabill - September 08, 2016 at 09:07 AM

MH

“ So sorry to hear of your father's passing. I have many fond memories of him and Marcheta. Being invited to playing at the house on the Buckner and swim in the pool was always special. Your dad was a very thoughtful, talented and skilled man. I remember the neighbors coming together to pour the concrete for the swimming pool he had dug and formed up and then fibreglassing the large cabin cruiser he had built. Our thoughts are with you all. Mike and Marcelle Hayes

Mike Hayes - September 07, 2016 at 11:36 AM

JF

“ I am so sorry to hear you've lost your dad. He and your mom were very special people. As a teen (and neighbor) I occasionally helped your mom by cleaning house and staying with the 4 boys (pre Lisa and Lorna) when they went out. Take care of each other and remember the good times. Joan Hayes Fox

Joan Hayes Fox - September 06, 2016 at 06:22 PM

LL

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Lisa Lowry - September 03, 2016 at 06:09 PM

LL

“ 9 files added to the album *New Album Name*



Lisa Lowry - September 03, 2016 at 05:11 PM