



Jeffrey Klenke

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NIAGARA, Wis. - Jeffrey J. Klenke, 68, of Niagara, died Sunday, April 18, 2004, at his home.

He was born Nov. 13, 1935, in Neenah, Wis., the son of the late George and Marion (Miller) Klenke.

Jeff graduated from Menasha High School in 1953. He then graduated from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wis. In 1960, he went on to receive his master's degree from Vandercook Institute of Music in Chicago in 1968.

Jeff married Karen Koehler on Aug. 17, 1964, in Brandon, Wis. He served in the U.S. Navy for three years.

Jeff was the band director for many years at Niagara High School, a full time substance abuse counselor and he and his wife owned and operated the Niagara Journal for 17 years. Jeff was a member of the Niagara Board of Education, a church board member for many years at Riverside United Methodist Church and served on a variety of many other local community organizations. He had a love for music and planting trees.

Jeff brought whoever he touched to be their best. His determination and encouragement helped everyone to challenge themselves and to be all they could be.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Karen; two daughters, Jill (Rick) Smith of Appleton, Wis. and Jennifer (Bryan) Rietveld of Kingsford; a brother, Karl (Patsy) Klenke of New London, Wis.; four grandchildren, Crystal and Ryan Smith, Monica and

Joseph Rietveld; and nieces, Kris (Rob) Bresnahan, Karl (Gina) Klenke, and Kari Klenke.

Visitation will be Wednesday from 1 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Niagara.

Funeral services will be at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at the church. Fr. John Hephner will offer the Mass of Christian Burial. Pastor Pat Nolet from Riverside United Methodist Church will share in the eulogy.

Burial will be in the Niagara Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Community Substance Abuse Program, WNMU Public Radio, or the Wisconsin Regional Public Library for the Blind.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Jeffrey J. Klenke online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com.

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

Tribute Wall

FS

“ Karen, We're so sorry to hear about Jeff. He was always such a jovial person and a good friend. It was a pleasure to call on him in years past. As Char is typing this, I have in my hand a copy of "The Niagara Journal & Franklin's Stove" from November 7, 1973. It brings back so many memories of Jeff and what you two represented.

Know that we are with you in spirit even though we cannot be there in person for the Mass at St. Anthony Church. I will tell Pete Heid about this, too.

Our prayers are with you and your family. May God, your family & friends give you strength at this difficult time.

With fond memories, Fred & Char Steenis

Fred "Fritz" Steenis - April 21, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ Recieved the notice today from Lil. Will not be physically present, but our spirit is with you.

Our prayer is for the strength and peace needed in the upcoming days. May His Spirit fill you.

Our deepest sympathy to you, Karen and the family. Dick and Rosie

Dick and Rosie Butzen - April 21, 2004 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ Karen,
Thinking of you. My thoughts and prayers are with you today, God Bless,
Terry VanHaute

Terry VanHaute - April 21, 2004 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *Karen and family,*

Cheryl and I hereby offer you and your family our support and strength through this difficult time. Having had the opportunity to sit with Jeff on the Reentry House - Community Substance Abuse Board was an honor. With a warm feeling, I especially remember all of the Christmas parties, and Jeff's devotion to making Christmas the wonderful time that it was.

Sincerely,

Dale M. Krause

Dale Krause - April 21, 2004 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ *Just wanted to express our condolences on Mr. Klenke's passing(I guess that goes back to the days of when he was my teacher-he was always"Mr. Klenke" to me..)He will certainly be missed...*

Sincerly, Mike Patterson & family

Mike Patterson - April 21, 2004 at 12:00 AM