



Kenneth Dean

July 9, 1934 - July 9, 2013

Kenneth H. Dean, 79, of Felch, went to be with his Lord and Savior on Tuesday, July 9, 2013.

He was born May 8, 1934 in Chicago, son of the late B. Howard and Myrtle "Bonnie" (Lantz) Dean. Ken lived with his late grandparents, Edward & Anna (Dixon) Lantz from his freshman year thru graduation from Felch High School in 1952. During his high school years he worked on his uncles farm & also in the woods. He joined the U.S. Navy and was medically discharged in 1953. Ken returned to Felch and went to work at the Niagara Paper Mill. He married Janet Lee Edberg, daughter of the late Helmer & Kristina (Paulic) Edberg on Dec. 26th, 1953 at Zion Lutheran in Metropolitan. They lived in Kingsford, MI & later in Iron Mountain, MI, where their two children were born. In 1959 they moved to Norwalk, CA where Ken worked building patios & then for Armstrong Flooring. They returned to the Felch area in 1963. Soon after, the family moved to Marquette where he attended NMU, graduating in 1968. While there he was very active in the Vet's club and also became a professor's class assistant which helped pay for his books. Ken taught school in Rock, MI for 2 years as an industrial education instructor, math teacher & he also coached basketball & football. The family then moved to Sault Ste. Marie where he was instrumental in the pilot program D.R.I.V.E. (Disadvantaged Retention in School thru Vocational Education) & held that position for 9 years. He also taught drivers education, coached basketball &

football, was active in the city basketball league (played & later refereed) & in their softball program. He kept in touch with the friends he made in the Soo through the years, especially his "fishing & golfing buddies". He was a lifetime member of the Soo Elks Club. In 1979, Ken accepted a job with the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District where he worked for Special Education as their Compliance & Monitoring Coordinator until retiring in 1996. Ken & Janet Lee had previously purchased the Paulic Farm in Ralph, MI & that is where they lived for the next 25 years, eventually selling it to their boys, Bill Dean & Ron Taipalus, & it is now "Camp Pair-a-dice." At that time they moved to the Felch area. Ken loved sports, & when he could no longer play, he refereed basketball & umpired baseball games. He was an active participant in the Wishigan baseball league as a player, umpire, announcer & never missed a Felch baseball tournament for many, many years. He also loved fishing, hunting, & golf until he could no longer participate. He was one of the original 8 members who built "The Boars Nest" hunting lodge outside of Felch until it was sold after 40 years of wonderful times & memories. He loved his children & when they were growing up, he & his wife Janet Lee made it their priority to take many trips with them from one end of this country to the other. When the grandchildren came along, they did the same with them. Ken & J.L. loved cruising & did so many times with family & friends. He also loved his annual trip with friends to Las Vegas which he did for over 50 years. For many years, Ken & Janet Lee spent winters in California with his mom & step-dad, Harold "Rocky" Rasmussen.

Ken leaves his children, Krisanne (David) Dennocenzo of Hardwood, William Dean of Iron Mountain, and Ron Taipalus of Sault Ste. Marie; grandchildren, Dean Dennocenzo and Dylan (Madeline) Dennocenzo, both of Felch, Brandi Dean, and Lindsey Mashak of Iron Mountain; great-grandchildren, Ava Lee, Parker Kenneth, Taylor Grace and Ethan James Dennocenzo, all of Felch; his step-dad, Harold "Rocky" Rasmussen of Newbury Park, CA; a brother-in-law, Helmer (Johney) Edberg; a sister-in-law, Delores Burton; special friends, Ron

& Dewey Solberg, Ted Mattson and Yut Wickman; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and countless friends.

Ken was preceded in death by his wife, Janet on September 27, 2011 and two brothers, John Edward & David Allen Dean.

Visitation will be on Friday from 10:00am to 1:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church in Metropolitan. Funeral services will follow at 1:00 pm at the church. Pastor Joel Smeby will officiate.

Ken will be buried on the Paulic/Dean farm in Ralph joining many family members.

Pallbearers will be Dylan & Dean Dennocenzo, Roger Stenfors, Keith & Tim Paquette and Glen Siegler.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Zion Lutheran Church.

Condolences to the family of Ken Dean may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 12. 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church
W4703 Metropolitan Rd.
Felch, MI 49831

Funeral Service

JUL 12. 1:00 PM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church
W4703 Metropolitan Rd.
Felch, MI 49831

Tribute Wall

DR

“ *I am sorry to learn that Ken is gone.*

He and Janet Lee made a great couple. They were both good representatives of Felch wherever they went.

My impression of Ken was he was always upbeat and having a good time, especially at the baseball field.

My condolences to the family.

Doug Davidson

Doug Davidson - Spring Lake, MI - Former Felch Resident - July 16, 2013 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *My condolences to Janet and family. When I first read the obituary, I saw that it stated that Ken had gone to be with his Lord and Savior. This could not have been more true...and I have a more accurate and acute perception of this than when I first met Ken at Sault High over 40 years ago. Ken was my driver ed teacher but also someone I looked up to while I was in high school. May he rest in peace. I will remember him in my Masses (church services) here at St. Louis the King parish in Marquette.*

*Rev. Ben J. Paris
Class of 1974*

Rev. Ben J. Paris - Marquette, MI - Former Student and Friend - July 15, 2013 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *What great guy Mr. Dean was, and what an influence on so many students. He was my driver's ed instructor, and made the experience relaxed and fun, except when the Tigers were on WSOO! He was the class advisor for Sault High Class of '76, and loved by all of us, as was his sweet wife. I am proud to have known them both. My condolences to all the family, and thank you for sharing him with us, all those years ago. .*

Therese Finnerty Curtis - Jonesville, MI - Former Student - July 14, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *My Deepest sympathy to the Dean family. Your father & grandfather was an amazing man. He was always seen in the hallways of Sault high and could put a smile on your face as soon as you saw him. I will always remember him as our class adviser and my driver's ed instructor who always started out each driving instruction with the words "you can tune the radio to any station as long as it is WSOO." He could put the most nervous of us newbie drivers at ease. The last time I saw him was at the Class of 76 twentieth class reunion - still as spry as ever and willing to become the life of the party!*

You all will be in my thoughts and prayers at this time. Just know that he will live in so many people's memories - as he truly made a difference in this world.

Jeannie (Atkins) O'Connor - Quincy, MA - Student - July 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ Sorry for your loss, what a great man! He and my dad were very good friends!
He will be missed dearly by all of us! Take care and chins up! It will be tough but we can lean on each other and make it through this!
Take care,
Brian R Seelund

Brian Seelund - Felch, MI - Friend - July 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Sorry for your loss Krisanne, Billy and Ron....had many a great times at the Boar's Nest and Solberg's. My prayers and thoughts are with you all!

Kim Nystrom - Sault Ste. Marie, MI - family friend - July 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ he will be missed,a man with a smile all the time

Kurt and Wendy Mattson - moore, OK - July 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BF

“ My heart go's out to the family of Pa Dean... He was a great guy, who put up with all of us at the house in the Soo.. he always had a smile on his face...And Janet was wonderful also.... I send Prays to u Billy.. and Krisanne...Brenda (Swick) Weaver

Brenda (Swick) Weaver - sturgeon bay, WI - friend - July 11, 2013 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Sorry to learn of Ken's passing. I knew him when he had the DRIVE program at Sault High. Always friendly & ready to laugh. I'm sure he'll be missed by many.

Larry Farnquist - Brimley, MI - Friend, colleague - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

AG

“ Kenny will be deeply missed, but never forgotten!

Angela, Nate & Nick Puliot - Felch, MI - Friends & " FL tour guide" - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ My name is Kari (McDonald) Willis, I am from Sault, MI. My father Mick McDonald and Kenny were great friends while Kenny and his wife lived in the Sault. Shortly after they moved to Felch we were invited to stay the weekend at the cabin with them. Although I was only eight years old, I remember parts of the cabin, all the bunks, and the woods, but most of all how Kenny made me and my brother laugh all weekend. I haven't seen him in years but I am 41 years old now and will never forget him and his wife, they were great people. Have a beer with my dad in heaven Kenny!

Kare Bear (Sault)

kari willis - sault ste marie, MI - friend - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ My heart goes out to family and friends of Deaneer (Pa) am so sorry for your loss, he was a great man and touched so many lives. He will be missed by all..V

MaryKay - Foster City, MI - July 10, 2013 at 12:00 AM