



Kenneth I. Gerdes

March 30, 1924 - July 3, 2015

Kenneth I. Gerdes, age 91, passed away peacefully at Bridge Hospice in Bowling Green, Ohio, on July 3, 2015, and joined his beloved wife and our mother, Esther, in heaven. Kenneth was born at home in Grand Rapids, Ohio, on March 30, 1924. He was the youngest son of Peter and Dena (Good) Gerdes. He was raised on the family farm in rural Grand Rapids with his brother, Harold and his sister, Thelma. Kenneth graduated from Grand Rapids High School, Grand Rapids, Ohio in 1942, where he played on the basketball team. It was in high school where he met the love of his life, Esther Wade. These high school sweethearts were married on January 24, 1943 and were happily married for nearly 63 years before Esther's death on September 8, 2006. Kenneth served in the U.S. Army during WWII and was stationed in the China Burma India Theatre. After he was discharged from the army, he returned home to farming for a short time and then went to work for the Champion Spark Plug Company in Toledo, Ohio. He was a supervisor in the extrusion department, retiring in 1986. After retirement, they moved from Delta, Ohio, to a farm in rural McClure that had been in Kenneth's family over 100 years. Kenneth was a member of the McClure United Methodist Church, the Roberts McMillen Post # 332 of the American Legion in McClure, Ohio; Fulton Lodge #248 of the Free and Accepted Masons in Delta, Ohio, where he served as a Past Master, Triune Chapter #344 of the Order of the Eastern Star, and The Valley of Toledo Scottish Rite.

Kenneth is survived by his wonderful children, Patricia Gerdes of Toledo, OH, Donald (Judi Yevtich) Gerdes of Delta, OH and Beverly Gerdes, McClure, OH. He is also survived by four loving grandchildren, Christopher (Renee) Gerdes, Danielle (Ben) DeBow, Milissa (James) Ford-Charter, and James Ford (Brandy Rollf). He was also the proud grandfather to nine loving great-grandchildren, Spencer and Owen Gerdes, CJ and Vivian DeBow, Kenneth, Austin and Adrianna Charter and Patrick and Bryton Ford. Kenneth is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, friends and special grand-dog, Oscar. He was preceded in death by his wife, parents, brother, Harold, sister, Thelma Slamka, and infant son, William.

Visitation will be Tuesday, July 7, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Wednesday from 10-11 a.m. prior to her service at the Rodenberger Funeral Home in McClure, Ohio. Masonic services will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at 11:00 a.m. at Rodenberger Funeral Home in McClure, Ohio. Burial will be held privately at Hockman Cemetery, McClure, Ohio where military honors will be accorded by the McClure Roberts-McMillan American Legion Post #332.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the McClure United Methodist Church, 430 S. East Street, P.O. Box 24, McClure, Ohio, or the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation - Greater Cincinnati Chapter, 4420 Carver Woods Dr., Cincinnati, Ohio 45242, or the charity of the donor's choice.

The family would like to thank the staff of the ER and ICU at Wood County Hospital and Bridge Hospice of Bowling Green, Ohio, for their kind and compassionate care.

Online condolences may be made at www.rodenbergerfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Hockman Cemetery

100 Township HWY O4
Corner of County Road O4 and Township
Road 3A
McClure, OH 43534

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 7. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

McClure Funeral Home
310 Frank Street
McClure, OH 43534
(419) 748-8011
help@rodenbergergray.com

Visitation

JUL 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

McClure Funeral Home
310 Frank Street
McClure, OH 43534
(419) 748-8011
help@rodenbergergray.com

Service

JUL 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

McClure Funeral Home
310 Frank Street
McClure, OH 43534
(419) 748-8011
help@rodenbergergray.com

Tribute Wall

JN

“ On behalf of the Karr family I would like to express our condolences on the loss of your father. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Judy Karr Nofzinger

Judy Nofzinger - July 07, 2015 at 02:38 PM

ST

“ Bev,

I am so sorry for the loss of your father. I know how much he meant to you. Hold on to all the memories that you have shared. I will be thinking of you and praying for you during this difficult time.

*Love and Peace,
Sara Trejo*

Sara Trejo - July 07, 2015 at 07:42 AM

KW

“ Even though we are up North, we are grieving with you. We are sorry for the loss of your father. Kenny was a good man. Marv says "I have known him since he was going together with Esther. He was like my big brother when, I was a kid. During all our adult life we always thought of Kenny as a special part of our family." Kenny was always a hard worker, caring, and a good father. He was a model of patience and kindness. They enjoyed 64 years of a happy marriage. He will be missed, especially his easy going demeanor, and our great conversations at our family lunches. Kenny, you have meant a lot and we have been blessed by your presence in our lives.
Kenny was a very gentle and good man,
You are all in our thoughts and prayers,
Love,
Marv, Phyl, Kevin, Sara, Marcia and Paul

Kevin Wade - July 06, 2015 at 07:11 PM



“ Garden of Serenity Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth I. Gerdes.



July 06, 2015 at 10:53 AM