



Kenneth A. Armstrong

December 29, 1920 - June 23, 2022

Kenneth A. Armstrong, age 101, of Storm Lake, Iowa, died Thursday, June 23, 2022 at Methodist Manor Retirement Community in Storm Lake.

Funeral services will take place Friday, July 1, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at the Lakeside Presbyterian Church in Storm Lake, Iowa. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the CHURCH. Burial will be in the Storm Lake Cemetery. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of arrangements.

Ken was born on a farm near Albert City, Iowa on December 29, 1920 to Andrew Berg and Louise Kaufman Berg. At the age of 18 months, upon his mother's death, he went to live with his aunt and uncle, Astrid (Berg) and William Armstrong on their farm near Lake Park, Iowa. Ken attended school through eighth grade in a one room schoolhouse, where he remained a lifelong friend with his schoolteacher, Ina Hansen. He graduated from Excelsior High School and came to Storm Lake in 1938 to attend Buena Vista College. Ken had \$50 in his pocket and a \$150 scholarship from the Knights of Templar, to whom he was forever grateful. Ken remembered walking across the campus of Buena Vista College the day that Pearl Harbor was attacked. He knew then that he would enter the service, which he did after completing his bachelor's degree in 1942. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Signal Corp. and was stationed in Monterey, California while serving his country for four years.

Ken was honorably discharged in 1946. While in the Army, Ken was pushed into going on a blind date by an Army buddy. On April 29, 1944 in Sacramento, California, Ken married that date, Betty Black, from St. Charles, Iowa.

After the war, Ken remembered how much he liked Storm Lake so he and Betty returned there to settle down and raise a family. Susan was born in 1950 and Debra was born in 1953. He entered the real estate and insurance business where he found his true calling. He commented later in life that he loved getting up every morning to his job and never regretted a day's work. Ken worked in partnership with Stan Haahr at BV Abstract and Mortgage Co for over 30 years. They bought, sold, and built many homes. With Stan, they opened two large new subdivisions in Storm Lake. Ken was also a certified FHA and Veterans Administration appraiser in a five-county area.

Ken was a member of Lakeside Presbyterian church for over 70 years, serving as deacon and trustee, and also served on the Board of the Prospect Hill Presbytery for many years. He was a member of Storm Lake Hy-Noon Kiwanis for 56 years (priding himself on his "perfect" attendance). He served on the Board of Directors of First Federal Savings and Loan (later MetaBank) for over 33 years.

In 1957, Ken, along with a few other old car enthusiasts formed the SERPACI Car Club. Ken was the last surviving charter member of the club. He spent many hours as a young man rebuilding antique and collectible cars, participating in area parades, car shows and attending swap meets. He owned over 82 cars. Other hobbies included traveling with his family, collecting old pocket watches and rebuilding antique tube radios. Ken was an avid fisherman since childhood and loved nothing better than catching a fresh walleye out of the lake and eating it that night for supper.

Ken truly loved Storm Lake and was very grateful to be able to stay in his home until his recent illness. Survivors who will miss him greatly include daughters: Susan (Craig) Mesenbrink; Debra (Brent) Hendriks; grandchildren: Nicholas (Jaime) Mesenbrink; Joshua (Jamie) Hendriks; Tawny (Cory) Roeder; great-grandchildren: Oliver Mesenbrink; Finn Mesenbrink; Hudson Roeder; Haddie Roeder; Isabel Hendriks; nieces, one nephew, and several cousins.

Preceding him in death was the love of his life for 73 years, his wife, Betty; his parents; and his sister, Violet "Vicki" Madsen.

Cemetery Details

Storm Lake Cemetery

Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 1. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Lakeside Presbyterian Church - Storm Lake
110 E. 3rd St.
Storm Lake, IA

Funeral Service

JUL 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Lakeside Presbyterian Church - Storm Lake
110 E. 3rd St.
Storm Lake, IA

Burial

JUL 1 (CT)

Storm Lake Cemetery
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth A. Armstrong*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - June 29, 2022 at 11:08 AM

RA

I'm Sooo very Sorry for the loss of your Dad, I Remember seeing Susan and him at The Wolfe eye clinic some time ago, and visiting with him, Such a Sweet Gentleman, God Bless his memory 🙏 Thoughts and Prayers are with You and Your Family 🙏📖❤️

Ruth Shaffer- Albrant - October 16, 2025 at 02:44 AM

ST

“ *To the Armstrong, Hendriks and Roeder Family: I am so sorry for the loss of someone so special. I remember Tawny talking about her grandpa Ken especially about what a car collector he was and how amazing he was. I am sure you have incredible memories of your dad, grandpa and great grandpa and may they bring you comfort and a smile as you mourn his passing. Stacy Rooker, Buffett Cancer Center*

Stacy - June 30, 2022 at 04:10 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - June 30, 2022 at 10:45 AM

Allyson
Munger

“ Ken was a super sweet man! He was my landlord in the 90's, when I was raising kids and going to nursing school. Best landlord ever! He always came right over if I had a problem. He gave me a place to live when I really needed one! Rest in Peace!!



Allyson Munger - June 29, 2022 at 08:15 AM

SH

“ Sherry Vilas Neid lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A Armstrong.



Sherry - June 28, 2022 at 10:13 PM

DJ

“ Deb And Kevin Jesse lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Armstrong



Deb and Kevin Jesse - June 27, 2022 at 02:13 PM

CD

“ Cheryl & Dave DeMan lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Armstrong



Cheryl & Dave DeMan - June 27, 2022 at 01:52 PM

HH

“ As a realtor, Ken was one of the first people we met in Storm Lake in the process of moving here in 1964 and looking for a place to live and they were scarce! He mentioned that he had just bought a lot on the lake for \$10,000 and he was going to build a house on it. I couldn't imagine spending that much money on a lot. Little did I realize!! It showed how astute Kenny was.

Through the years and through SERPACI, bridge clubs and doing business with him, I came to know him as a cordial guy with the ability to spin stories, be kind and helpful and just fun to visit with. I will miss him. We always had a good time playing cards with he and Betty and enjoying the stories and having lots of laughs!..

I was amazed at his durability and ability to stay in his home so long. He will be missed.

Howard Hatlelid - June 27, 2022 at 11:11 AM

JD

“ John And Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Armstrong



John and Connie Demers - June 25, 2022 at 07:35 AM

KE

“ Karen Eichner lit a candle in memory of Kenneth A. Armstrong



Karen Eichner - June 24, 2022 at 07:59 PM

KE

Oh, the fun those SERPACI charter members had! ❤️

karen eichner - July 01, 2022 at 10:01 PM

KE

Karen Dvergsten Eichner

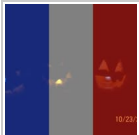
karen eichner - July 01, 2022 at 10:03 PM

BR

“ Our condolences to Ken's family. Ken was a kind cheerful friend, always full of smiles. We purchased several homes from him. We often visited with him around town, at the post office or at a local garage sale about his collection of automobiles and radios. Bill and Bev



Bill Rice - June 24, 2022 at 06:02 PM



“ My husband and I met Ken years ago. We always thought of him as a nice and fair man. We also bought his little red trailer that he used to go on swap meets for car parts. Always had stories to tell. He was a good guy. He will be missed.



Sally Rassler - June 24, 2022 at 01:42 PM