



Kenneth "Chopper" Ohrtman

October 3, 1955 - February 28, 2023

On the afternoon of February 28, 2023, Kenneth "Chopper" Dean Ohrtman, age 68, died at home at his acreage in rural Storm Lake after battling cancer. God must have needed help fixing something.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, March 4, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake with a luncheon to follow at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Newell, Iowa. Burial will be at a later date in the Newell Cemetery. Visitation will take place two hours prior to the service at the FUNERAL HOME on Saturday. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements. The family asks that attendees dress casually. Please do not send peace lilies as Deb doesn't like them.

Chopper was born in 1955 to Dorothy (Hase) Ohrtman and Harold Ohrtman in Storm Lake, Iowa. He joined older siblings, David and Beverly, at home on the family farm. Younger siblings Duane, Barbara, and Robert completed their family. Chopper was baptized at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Pocahontas, Iowa, where he was later confirmed in 1971. Growing up, he learned to work hard, adapt, make do, and problem solve. Chopper's formal education ended when he earned his GED, but he never stopped learning. He liked nothing more than jumping into a project and figuring it out as he went. He loved to tear things apart to see how they worked, and he didn't want or need anyone's help. Even though he didn't want anyone to help him, he was the first person

to help out others. Is it broken? “I can fix that,” was his response.

Chopper worked at a variety of jobs that capitalized on his mechanical skills. He was always up for the next adventure or challenge, and if it involved motorcycles, even better. Chop was blessed to meet his travel partner, fellow adventurer, and love-of-his-life, Debra Sue Vohs. They married in 1983, and would have celebrated their 40 year anniversary in October of this year. On one of their first dates, Chopper tore apart a motorcycle, cleaned the parts, and carefully explained each part to her as they put it back together. They traveled together on motorcycles – Harleys were their favorite – through the United States and Canada. They rode two 900 miles day to catch a ferry on the West Coast. They rode to Alaska with a motorcycle pulling a small trailer. They encountered sleet and snow in British Columbia as they rode in the north and blistering heat in the south, and he certainly never wanted to stop for gas.

When Chop and Deb weren't adventuring on the bike, Chopper enjoyed working on their acreage, planting trees, strategizing his next hunt, hunting, enjoying the outdoors, observing wildlife and bird watching. He was a devoted son who valued family. He was tough and kind, spontaneous and an over-planner. He was an avid collector of things that he thought he might need, a loyal friend, and a riveting storyteller. Yep. How did he get his kite out of the tree? What happened when he took the Harley down a logging road in Canada? What about that elk license? So many stories. And they were all true.

Chopper was predeceased by his parents Harold and Dorothy; his brothers David, Duane, and Robert; and his sister Barbara. He is survived by his wife Deb; his sister Bev Rice; nieces, nephews, great nieces and nephews, and many friends.

Cemetery Details

Newell Cemetery

E. Jensen St.
Newell, IA 50568

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 4. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Memorial Service

MAR 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

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1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
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Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth "Chopper" Ohrtman*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 03, 2023 at 01:52 PM

BS

*My brother Russ and I were farm neighbor kids growing near ' Kenny' and his family in rural Newell/ Varina area. On Saturday and Sunday afternoons we rode a couple Shetland ponies over to his place with the long lane and meet up with him and sometimes Duane on their ponies and ride towards Sunken Grove and join up with Kenneth and Alan Kies too along the way on their ponies too. Later we journeyed on gravel roads with bicycles but soon transitioned to small motorcycles too together. Kenny was a good school classmate and neighbor friend. Our families baled along of square hay bales together a couple of years and I played football with him as a good teammate. He was tough and strong physically but a personable, thoughtful, loyal and good hearted friend. I enjoyed visiting with him when I got a chance, have not seen him for years. My prayers and greetings of Condolences and Goodwill to all Family and Friends of ' Kenny' 'Chopper' Kenneth Ohrtman !
God Bless and Take Care !*

Bradley S. Smith - March 04, 2023 at 07:57 AM

BL

“ *Sending heartfelt sympathy to Deb and all of Chopper's family! I remember Chopper as being such a tough guy in school, but he was always kind to me! I am so very sorry for your loss!*

Beth (Neville) Long - March 06, 2023 at 01:56 PM

ML

“ *My deepest sympathy to Debra and his family. He had a heart of gold and always knew you. Chopper worked with my husband in Storm Lake. May God put his arms around you Debra keep you safe till you meet again Hugs!*



Mary Lange - March 05, 2023 at 10:19 PM

BS

“ *Bradley Smith lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Ohrtman*



Bradley S. Smith - March 04, 2023 at 07:40 AM

BH

“ *So sorry Aunt Deb. He was the best and he will be missed by many.*



Becky Harden - March 03, 2023 at 10:38 AM

RW

“ One thing I can remember about Chopper. He was an immovable object in football. This was back in the Coach Meyers days the hubby hubby man as he liked to say to us anyway, I was a skinny freshman and my job was to block Chopper. It was like hitting a brick wall !! NEVER, in my life since then have I felt as bad, and seeing "stars" as on that day ... lol. This is my biggest memory of Chopper that, and he was tough, but was a kind soul as well. May he rest in peace !!

Robert Wetherell - March 03, 2023 at 06:51 AM

RW

“ Ruth Westergaard lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Ohrtman



Ruth Westergaard - March 03, 2023 at 05:31 AM

KP

“ Karla Pickhinke lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Ohrtman



Karla Pickhinke - March 02, 2023 at 10:31 PM

MP

“ We are so deeply sorry to learn of the loss of Chopper. He was a man who loved life and adventures. May the memories bring you comfort.

Marty and Chuck Petzoldt - March 02, 2023 at 06:37 PM

MP

“ *Marty Chuck Petzoldt lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Ohrtman*



Marty and Chuck Petzoldt - March 02, 2023 at 06:34 PM

BB

“ *Bob Baschke lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Ohrtman*



Bob Baschke - March 02, 2023 at 12:52 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kenneth "Chopper" Ohrtman.*



March 02, 2023 at 11:36 AM

DW

“ *Dar Will lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Ohrtman*



Dar Will - March 02, 2023 at 11:07 AM

EC

“ Elwyn and Char purchased the "Remembering You" 30" Solar Sonnet for the family of Kenneth "Chopper" Ohrtman.



Elwyn and Char - March 02, 2023 at 11:05 AM

AC

“ Al & Linda Carlsen lit a candle in memory of Kenneth "Chopper" Ohrtman



Al & Linda Carlsen - March 02, 2023 at 10:05 AM

LN

“ Luke and Renee Northwall purchased the [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) for the family of Kenneth "Chopper" Ohrtman.

Luke and Renee Northwall - March 02, 2023 at 09:26 AM

SB

“ Scott Bodholdt lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Ohrtman



Scott Bodholdt - March 02, 2023 at 08:23 AM

JF

“ *Jo Fulks lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Ohrtman*



Jo Fulks - March 01, 2023 at 10:31 PM

CJ

“ *Cousins Jane, Karen, John purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kenneth "Chopper" Ohrtman.*



Cousins Jane, Karen, John - March 01, 2023 at 05:36 PM

LC

“ *Love - Lisa, Teresa, Nick & Connie purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Kenneth "Chopper" Ohrtman.*



Love - Lisa, Teresa, Nick & Connie - March 01, 2023 at 04:52 PM