

*Remembering
The Life of*



Kent Eknes

April 9, 1948 ~ December 21, 2024



It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Kent Eric Eknes, a loving husband, devoted father and grandfather, and cherished member of our community, who passed away peacefully on December 21, 2024, at the age of 76. Born in Sacramento, CA, he was the son of Retired Lt. Col. Einar E. Eknes and Dorothy Eknes. Kent was a dedicated teacher and coach for over 35 years, a true servant leader, and a man of deep faith. His life was centered on God, family, friends, and giving back to his community. He took immense pride in the accomplishments of his children and grandchildren, and his legacy of love and dedication will be carried forward through them.

Kent is survived by his beloved wife, Judith Hope (Van Steenwyk) Eknes, whom he married on June 26, 1969, and their children: Kirk (Victoria) Eknes of Covington, LA, and their daughters, Brooke (21), Ainsley (15), and Morgan (13); and Trisha (Dan) Marcey of Reston, VA, and their son, Hunter (1).

He is also survived by his siblings, Kay (Jim) De Jong of Orange City, IA, and Kim (Dave) Kerkhoff of Burlington, WI, as well as his in-laws: Karen (Jim) Bolluyt of Ames, IA; Bob (Sharon) Vander Schaaf of Sioux City, IA; JoLynn Van Steenwyk of Orange City, IA; Doug (Kris) Van Steenwyk of Ankeny, IA; Tammy Vermeer of West Lawn, PA; and Dave (Laura) Van Steenwyk of Sioux Falls, SD. He leaves behind many beloved nieces and nephews. Kent was preceded in death by his sister, Karla Aalberts, and in-laws, Bonnie Vander Schaaf and Don Van Steenwyk.

After graduating from Maurice-Orange City (MOC) High School, Kent attended Northwestern College in Orange City, IA. He began his 35-year teaching career in Rock Valley, IA, where he became a pillar of the educational and athletic community. Over the years, he coached football (28 years), wrestling (32 years), and track and field, while also serving as an elementary guidance counselor later in his career.

Kent's dedication to his community extended beyond the classroom. He served as mayor of Rock Valley, IA, for over 20 years and was an active member of the Hope Haven board, serving as its president for many years. He took great joy in traveling with Hope Haven's wheelchair ministry, helping to deliver mobility and hope to those in need, beginning with the first wheelchair delivery to the Dominican Republic.

Kent will be remembered for his unwavering faith, his devotion to family, and his lifelong commitment to serving others. His love and legacy will continue to inspire all who knew him.

In Loving Memory
Kent Eric Eknes

MEMORIAL SERVICE

3:00 PM, Saturday, December 28, 2024
Faith Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIATING

Pastor Chris Van Beek

ORGANIST

Ruth Vermeer

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

“Victory In Jesus”

“It Is Well With My Soul”

SPECIAL MUSIC

“No More Night”

JoLynn Van Steenwyk, soloist

PALLBEARERS

Rosalio Macedo ~ Wade Gort

Arlo Van Kley ~ Dave Kerkhoff

Jerry Cihota ~ Dave Van Steenwyk

INTERMENT

Valley View Cemetery

Rock Valley, Iowa

*Kent's family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship
in the gathering place following the memorial service.*