



Francis Nicholas Kenkel

September 29, 1920 - July 7, 2020

Francis was born September 29, 1920 to Nicholas and Mary Eckerman Kenkel of Defiance, Iowa.

Francis passed away on July 7, 2020 having attained the age of 99 years, 9 months, and 8 days.

Francis stayed close to home in the Defiance area. In 1950 Francis married Mary Ann Buman and they settled north of Defiance on a farm and raised six boys. Francis and Mary Ann moved to Defiance in 1983. Francis retired from farming at the age of 70. Francis and Mary Ann enjoyed wintertime in Sun City West, Arizona and returning to Iowa in the Spring.

Francis was active in many agricultural organizations that he enjoyed. Francis served as a member of Harlan Community School Board, and the State Board of Education. Francis was a member of St. Peter's Parish in Defiance and involved in the Knights of Columbus in Arizona and Defiance.

Francis's new passion became woodworking. He enjoyed making and discovering new ways of using wood. Many hours were spent constructing his Cathedrals which he took great pride in building.

Francis was the oldest of ten children. He was preceded in death by his parents Nicholas and Mary Kenkel, his wife Mary Ann of 66 years, and one brother Clarence (Joe), brothers-in-law, Glen Juelsgard, Jim Anderson, Bud Rossi, Lud Buman, Don Buman, and Ray Buman.

Francis is survived by six sons Jim and Pam of Woodward; Gene of Defiance; Alan and Jo of Defiance; Mike and Jean of Council Bluffs; Pat and Christina of Knoxville, TN; and Kevin and Diane of Mitchell, SD. Francis has 18 grandchildren and 25 great grandchildren.

Francis's siblings include; Helen Juelsgard of Walnut; Mildred Anderson of Milwaukee, WI; Eileen Rossi of Milwaukee, WI; Alice Buman of Harlan; Madonna and Clarence Neppl of Salida, CO; Robert and Bernice Kenkel of Scottsdale, AZ; Mary Pat and Walt Sweetman of Highland Ranch, CO; Nick and Mary Ann Kenkel of Lakeville, IN; sisters-in-law Della Kenkel of Johnston; Marian Buman of Harlan; Alice Bontz of Council Bluffs, and Clarice Buman of Harlan. Also brother-in-law and sister-in-law Dr. Ken and Norene Pavlik of

Verdigre, NE. He will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Events

JUL **Visitation** 05:00PM - 08:00PM

9

St. Peter's Catholic Church
501 5th, Defiance, IA, US, 51527

JUL **Service** 11:00AM

10

St. Peter's Catholic Church
501 5th, Defiance, IA, US, 51527

Comments



“ One of my fondest memories of Francis was during one of the Kenkel Reunions. Francis and Joe got up in front of all of us and sang a song. I saw a side of both of them I had not seen before. They were so happy and good singers to boot!!! It brought us joy....a very special memory!

Kathleen Kenkel Engel - July 10 at 12:12 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear about Francis passing. He was a phenomenal man who influenced many many lives. Greg was one of those who benefitted greatly. It was always delightful to visit he and MaryAnn to hear the stories and see his latest wood working projects.
May he rest in peace as he is reunited with MaryAnn in God's kingdom. Much love to all the family
Susie, Kyle and Ally, Cameron, and Conner Kenkel

Susie Kenkel - July 10 at 02:13 AM



“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Francis Kenkel. My husband and I had the wonderful pleasure of getting to know your parents on a bank excursion to Alaska some years ago. They joined our Crawford Club group from Denison and we stopped in Defiance to pick them up. God's blessings and know your parents are once again reunited.

Lana Henningsen - July 09 at 06:12 PM



“ Truly missed. It has been decades since the farm visits and stays of my youth but they remain fond memories.

I recall the noon feasts we enjoyed during the summer, and during winter visits as well. Family prayers each evening. Small lessons learned about the farm.

Uncle Francis was always convivial, his house always welcoming. On one occasion he paid me \$4 cash for helping with chores during a visit. It would be the better part of \$100 now. I have always cherished that kind act and the feeling of accomplishment it engendered in me.

Mike Buman - July 09 at 01:50 PM



“ Francis Kenkel family, I am sorry for your loss , in these trying times this may be all I can do as far as attending services but by sure that I would like to meet with family and friends as our connection has many ways in the past with the Weilands Loehrs and through the Goeser family Hardware, a long history but now is over. Sincerely, John Goeser for the Goeser Family of Defiance. The last of the line here too. May we meet again in better times.

j - July 08 at 06:45 PM



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Francis Nicholas Kenkel.



July 08 at 03:56 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Francis Nicholas Kenkel.



July 08 at 02:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Francis Nicholas Kenkel.



July 08 at 01:37 PM



“ From:, Elwin, Kelly, Laurie & Judy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Francis Nicholas Kenkel.



From:, Elwin, Kelly, Laurie & Judy - July 08 at 11:39 AM



“ My sympathy to Francis' family he was one who regularly attended the Manor Mass and Rosary before the virus shut it down and no longer let people into the Manor for visits. May God grant him eternal rest.
Carleen Schwieso

Carleen Schwieso - July 08 at 07:46 AM



“ Sympathy and prayers to the family of our farm neighbor. Visited with him a few times at the Manor. Sandi Backhaus Gruhn and the rest of the Backhaus's

Sandra Gruhn - July 08 at 01:02 AM



“ Jo Cable lit a candle in memory of Francis Nicholas Kenkel



Jo Cable - July 07 at 08:25 PM



“ I remember fondly all the visits made to the Kenkel homestead when I was younger and getting a chance to see my Uncle, Aunt and cousins. It was always an enjoyable time getting our two families together. Jim, Gene, Alan, Mike, Pat, Kevin, my deepest sympathy to you all over the loss of Uncle Francis. May his legacy live on in the lives of all he touched.

Jo Cable - July 07 at 09:09 PM