



## Kenneth R Van Dyke

June 18, 1934 - May 7, 2017

Kenneth R. Van Dyke, 82, surrounded by family and friends, left this earth and entered into everlasting life with his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on May 7, 2017.

Ken was born on June 18, 1934, in New York. His family moved to California when he was only 9 years old. While traveling through Oklahoma on his birthday, his family celebrated the affair with a big cold watermelon. He never forgot what that birthday meant to him.

He graduated from Narbonne High School in Lomita, California, in 1952 and earned his associate degree from Long Beach Community College, California, in 1956.

Ken and Sally were married in March 1954, which resulted in a forever love of two wonderful daughters, Becky of Lompoc, California, and Ruthie of Minneapolis, Minnesota, and one treasured son, Paul of Kodiak, Alaska.

Kenny worked for the federal government right out of high school as a boat builder at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, California. He then became a carpenter working at the Port Hueneme Seabee Base, California, and then was selected out of 56 applicants as the structural planner and estimator for the Coast Guard Base in Kodiak, Alaska. His volunteer work included helping

to construct three churches; one being in Kodiak, God's real reason for him going there. Ken and Sally loved Kodiak and continued to live there for 23 years before moving to Byars, Oklahoma, in 2003.

Byars gave him the opportunity to live out his dream of being on a farm and being close to Sally's relatives, Bud and Symblene Barr and Doyle and Joan McElwain. He would start anew with his talents and skills to be used for wherever they may have been needed.

KoKoBear Grandpa was the name his grandchildren referred to him because of his Kodiak experience. He and Sally were also hosts of the Country Bed & Breakfast in Kodiak, Alaska, for five years.

Kenny is survived by his wife of 63 years, Sally; daughter and husband Becky & Alan Grant, daughter and husband Ruthie & Dick George, and son & wife Paul and Kelley VanDyke; his grandchildren Dan & Jessica Nelson, Bob & Jamie Nelson, Emily Grant & fiancé Andy Keilen, Caland Grant, Elizabeth & Dan Norrbom, Rachel & Ethan Welliver, Grace & fiancé Patrick Kearney, Luke Ratta, and Annie Van Dyke; great grandchildren Bailey Nelson, Daniel Nelson, Andrew Nelson, Avery Nelson, Ezekiel Nelson, Wyatt Norrbom, Liam Norrbom, and Finlee Kearney. He is also survived by his sister-in-law and brother-in-law Don and Bette Johnson, sister-in-law Dorothy Babcock, numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

Kenny was preceded in death by his parents, his wife's parents, his brother and wife Richard & Joanne Van Dyke, brother-in-law and sister-in-law Jack and Muriel Berry, brother-in-law Hank Babcock, and his first son-in-law, Rev. Daniel Nelson.

A Celebration of Life was held on Saturday, May 13, 2017, at the Pentecostal Holiness Church in Byars, Oklahoma. Burial was at the Byars Cemetery and a

reception followed at the Byars Senior Center.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Byars Pentecostal Holiness Church, Byars, Oklahoma 74831.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kenneth R Van Dyke*

October 05, 2023 at 07:47 PM



“ *I WORKED IN KODIAK AK WITH KEN FOR MANY YEARS AND COULD NOT ASK FOR A BETTER CO-WORKER. KEN AND I BECOME VERY CLOSE FRIENDS. KEN HELPED ME EVER SO MUCH WHEN I FIRST MOVEVED TO KODIAK. I WILL MISS YOU MY FRIEND. GODS BLESSING TO THE FAMILY.*



**LARRY** - May 18, 2017 at 05:36 PM



“ *LARRY & FRIEDA OHARA lit a candle in memory of Kenneth R Van Dyke*



**LARRY & FRIEDA OHARA** - May 18, 2017 at 05:30 PM



“ *3 files added to the tribute wall*



**Alan Grant** - May 11, 2017 at 04:21 AM

KK

“ Kelly Kullberg lit a candle in memory of  
Kenneth R Van Dyke



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**Kelly Kullberg** - May 11, 2017 at 02:47 AM

DH

“ Sally, Becky, Ruthie, Paul and Families: We would like to express  
our deepest sympathy in the loss of your Husband, Dad and Loved  
One. Hold dear your special memories. Replenish them to sustain  
you in the days to come. Love from us, Dale and Adina Holt

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**Dale and Adina Holt** - May 10, 2017 at 06:39 PM



“ California Healthy was purchased for the family  
of Kenneth R Van Dyke.



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May 10, 2017 at 06:30 PM