



Kenneth H Emme

December 8, 1936 - April 17, 2025

FOREST CITY ~ Kenneth H. Emme, 88, of Forest City, IL, passed away at 1:36 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, 2025, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, IL.

He was born on December 8, 1936, at home in rural Havana, IL, the son of Henry and Alma (Steging) Emme. He married Diana VanOrman on December 1, 1968, at Forest City Community Church.

He is survived by his wife, Diana, of Forest City; four children: Todd (Annie) Emme of Palmyra, MO, Brian Emme of Forest City, Patia (Eric) Havican of Germantown Hills, IL, and Beth (Jason) Lyons of Lombard, IL; five grandchildren: Alexis Emme, Emme and Ethan Havican, Joseph and Rose Lyons; one brother, Robert (Alice) Emme of Havana, IL; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father.

Ken was a Havana native and graduated from Havana High School in 1954. In 1957, he enlisted in the Air National Guard's 170th Fighter Squadron. After basic training, he was trained in jet engine maintenance. On March 30, 1959, he was hired as a teller at Havana National Bank. In 1961, Ken was called to active duty in the U.S. Air Force during the Berlin Blockade. He continued to serve in the Air Force and Air National Guard for a total of eight years.

Following active duty, he returned to Havana National Bank as a teller and was promoted several times, serving in multiple management positions. In 1984, he was promoted to President and CEO, as well as a member of the Board of Directors. He retired as President and CEO in 2004 but remained on the Board of Directors until 2020. Throughout his career, he attended and graduated from several banking schools and served two terms on the Illinois Bankers Association State Board of Directors, as well as on the Ag Advisory Board at both the state and federal levels.

Ken was active in many civic organizations in the Havana and Mason County area. He was a lifetime member of The American Legion Post 138 in Havana and held many positions over the years. He served on the Spoon River College Foundation Board, Havana Jaycees, Havana and Manito Rotary Clubs, Havana Economic Development Committee, Mason County Farm Bureau, and Central Illinois Irrigated Growers Association.

He was very involved in his church, serving on multiple committees and in various leadership roles. Ken was a participant in the WATCH and Cursillo communities, where he shared his faith in Jesus.

Ken enjoyed traveling, both in the states and abroad. He especially loved camping with family and friends at Camp CILCA in Cantrall, IL, and Blue Lake Resort in Fountain, MI. Growing up on a farm outside of Havana, Ken always had a deep connection to agriculture and enjoyed collecting antique tractors. He and his wife lived on her family's farm in rural Forest City, where they hosted countless family get-togethers, complete with tractor rides for the grandkids.

Visitation will be held from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, at Hurley Funeral Home in Havana. Funeral services will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Manito, officiated by Pastor Matthew Berndt. A brief one-hour visitation will precede the funeral.

Burial with military rites will follow at Meadow Lawn Cemetery in Manito.

Memorial contributions can be made in his honor to Camp CILCA, Cardiac Rehab at Mason District Hospital, or St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Manito.

Philippians 4:13 — "I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me."

Cemetery Details

Meadow Lawn Cemetery

801 E. Meadow Lawn St.
Manito, IL 61546

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **22**. 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Hurley Funeral Home - Havana
217 North Plum Street
P.O. Box #648
Havana, IL 62644
(309) 543-2244
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Visitation

APR **23**. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Saint Paul Lutheran Church
21819 N Co Rd 3300 E
Manito, IL 61546

Funeral Service

APR **23**. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Paul Lutheran Church
21819 NCR 3300E
Manito, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Kenneth H Emme



Hurley Funeral Home - April 22, 2025 at 02:28 PM

MG

“ Marilou Gaw lit a candle in memory of Kenneth H Emme



Marilou Gaw - April 23, 2025 at 09:58 PM

MG

“ Sorry for your loss. I remember thought so much of Kenny! Take care of yourself Diane, and keep the memories.



Marilou Gaw - April 23, 2025 at 09:55 PM

FO

“ From Kayla Hughes - OLHMS purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Kenneth H Emme.



From Kayla Hughes - OLHMS - April 22, 2025 at 08:09 PM

TW

“ We remember Ken’s sweet and easy manner, his big smile and laugh. He had a quick wit and could talk to anyone. He was humble and kind and a man of faith; he will be greatly missed.

Prayers for comfort & peace through Christ Jesus our Lord.

With deepest sympathy,

~ Tim & Karen Worner 🙏



Tim & Karen Worner - April 22, 2025 at 06:16 PM

DB

“ Prayers for your peace to Diane and family.

Don and Marilyn Blakeley

Don and Marilyn Blakeley - April 22, 2025 at 06:00 PM

TD

“ The Dieterichs purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Kenneth H Emme.



The Dieterichs - April 22, 2025 at 03:26 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Kenneth H Emme.*



April 22, 2025 at 11:44 AM



“ *Diane, prayers to you and your children.ay he rest in peace*



Tony Birchfield - April 21, 2025 at 11:11 PM



“ *So sorry for your family's loss! He will be missed by those who knew him well.*



Elva Stigall - April 21, 2025 at 05:35 PM



“ *Mark and Elaine Ray planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth H Emme.*

Mark and Elaine Ray - April 21, 2025 at 01:50 PM

MR

“ *Mark and Elaine Ray purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kenneth H Emme.*



Mark and Elaine Ray - April 21, 2025 at 01:50 PM

DW

“ *Dan and Chris Wilson lit a candle in memory of Kenneth Emme*



Dan and Chris Wilson - April 21, 2025 at 12:28 PM

TU

“ *My sincere condolences to the Emme family. May the memories you hold dear bring you comfort in the coming days.*



Traci Unruh - April 21, 2025 at 12:17 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kenneth H Emme.*



April 21, 2025 at 12:12 PM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Kenneth H Emme.*



April 21, 2025 at 10:46 AM



“ *Worner Cousins purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Kenneth H Emme.*



Worner Cousins - April 21, 2025 at 08:18 AM



“ *Shirley L. purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kenneth H Emme.*



Shirley L. - April 21, 2025 at 07:56 AM



“ *Justin Van Orman & Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kenneth H Emme.*



Justin Van Orman & Family - April 21, 2025 at 12:19 AM

AM

“ *Banking Meeting times????????? and always had a joke. life of the party. He will be missed,*



Alie Miller - April 20, 2025 at 08:20 PM

PG

“ *My sympathies to Kenny's family for your loss. Kenny was a great guy with a wonderful sense of humor. Gary enjoyed working along side him and Curly Yetter at their dinners having fun and joking around. May they find each other and continue to make each other smile.*



PATRICIA GILBREATH - April 20, 2025 at 08:11 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Kenneth H Emme.*



April 20, 2025 at 07:20 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kenneth H Emme.*

April 20, 2025 at 07:20 PM

LC

“ Sorry for your loss, Kenny was great person.
Richard and Lanette Crum



Lanette Crum - April 20, 2025 at 06:49 PM

CK

“ Started 1 st grade together all the way through 12 th . There was Ken, Janet Specketer Brown, & me Carol Fisk Kolves. We called ourselves the Dieffenbacher kids. Don't think Ken ever missed a alumni, and he looked forward attending them with all those old people. He was the MC of some telling his jokes. So sorry for your loss , he will be missed . Prayers to you Diana and your family

Carol Fisk Kolves - April 20, 2025 at 06:42 PM

DL

“ So sorry for your loss Diana. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this most difficult time.
Dale and Donna Lawson

Donna Lawson - April 20, 2025 at 06:11 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Kenneth H Emme.



April 20, 2025 at 05:38 PM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Kenneth H Emme.*



April 20, 2025 at 04:02 PM



“ *Our very deepest sympathy to Kenneth's family in his passing. A wonderful man and friend. Alvin and Lorenda Spilker*



Lorenda and Alvin Spilker - April 20, 2025 at 02:22 PM



“ *Sincere condolences to the Emme family. Thinking of you and hope you find comfort in the thoughts and prayers of family and friends.* 🙏💕



Gerald & Bonnie Dieterich - April 20, 2025 at 12:25 PM



“ *Kenneth was the best boss ever! He was always kind and had a great sense of humor. My thoughts and prayers are with Diana and family.*



Nancy Elliott - April 20, 2025 at 12:03 PM

DW

“ Dan And Chris Wilson lit a candle in memory of Kenneth H Emme



Dan and Chris Wilson - April 20, 2025 at 11:39 AM

LH

“ Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Kenneth H Emme



Larry and Mary Hundt - April 20, 2025 at 10:27 AM

JL

“ Jim Lyons purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kenneth H Emme.



Jim Lyons - April 20, 2025 at 10:26 AM