

Kenneth G. VanDerGeest, 86, of Merrill, WI went to his heavenly home on February 8, 2019. Ken was born in Wausau, WI on October 8, 1932 to Joe and Anna Van DerGeest. Ken loved his family dearly and was very proud of each of them. His greatest joy was cooking prime rib roasts on his “special prime rib only” grill and sharing it with family and friends. His choice “hamburgers” were a tremendous favorite also. He had a passion for work. “To be able to work is one of God’s great gifts”, was his belief. He was the only person we knew that always looked forward to Monday morning. Ken worked tremendously hard to support his growing family. He owned and operated a small meat market in Antigo, WI from 1965 -1969. In 1970 he was offered an opportunity to be the first distributor for Tombstone Pizza and successfully built regional sales in the upper peninsula of Michigan. He retired in 1996 and pursued a new venture of opening accounts for Pep’s Pizza. As often happens, our greatest joys come later in life. Ken’s passion was driving a truck and delivering product. He felt so privileged to be able to drive for a company owned by one of his sons. In fact, he made his last trip 2 days before he left us. There always were dogs in his life. Chihuahuas, a Great Dane and everything in between found their way into his heart. His latest, Lacie, a Yorke, was his constant companion and was with him the last day Ken spent with us. Prior to his marriage to Mary Ann (Schewe) VanDerGeest on September 8, 1956, Ken enlisted in the US Air Force where he served from 1951-1955. He was stationed in Thule, Greenland for 1 year. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Mary Ann, as well as 10 of his 13 children; Karen (Bob) Akey of Merrill, WI; Debbie (Bill) Groskopf of Nashotah, WI; Patti (Mike) Boyd of Merrill; Tim (Carol) VanDerGeest of Birmingham, AL; Jim VanDerGeest (Deana DeWan) of Wausau; Nancy (Johnny) Dewar of Merrill; Steve VanDerGeest (Kristin Akey) of Minneapolis, MN; Kelly (Jon) Leiskau of Merrill; Katie (Will) Yutuc of Merrill; Marci (Dale) Rankin of Tomahawk, WI; 26 grandchildren and 17 great grand children. He is further survived by his brother, Gerrit (Chub) VanDerGeest and sister, Marlene Stevenson. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and a sister; two sons, Michael and Rick, a baby daughter, Catherine and grandnephew, Christopher Grubb.



Ken G. VanDerGeest

October 8, 1932- February 8, 2019





Ken VanDerGeest

MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL:

Wednesday, February 13, 2019, 2019 11:00 a.m.

St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church
Merrill, WI

VISITATION:

Tuesday, February 12, 2019 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Waid Funeral Home
Merrill, WI

OFFICIATING:

Father Chris Kemp

PALLBEARERS:

Michael VanDerGeest	David Akey
Joe Akey	Dan Groskopf
Zak VanDerGeest	Mathew Dewar
Tom Groskopf	Jack VanDerGeest
Bradley Leiskau	Ryan Dewar

GIFT BEARERS:

Hollie Dewar Emily Leiskau
& Erin Boquist

ARRANGEMENTS BY:

Waid Funeral Home
Merrill, Wisconsin

*Lunch will be served at the Eagle's Club
following the graveside service.*

Everyone is welcome.

Cherish each other in big ways and in
small ways and never forget the magic of
those three little words.

“I Love You”

