



Richard Kemp

January 31, 1953 - April 11, 2011

Eskridge-Richard Dale Kemp, 58, passed away Monday, April 11, 2011 at Stormont Vail Regional Health Care Center.

He was born January 31, 1953 in Topeka, the son of Dale and Hazel Sterrett Kemp. Richard grew up in the Eskridge community where he had lived all of his life. He graduated from Eskridge High School in 1971, the schools last graduating class.

Richard had worked for the Wabaunsee County Sheriffs Department, Ralph Stratton, Bob Shumate, John Deere in Osage City, the City of Eskridge, Reed Construction, Wamego and the past several years for Kanza Construction in Council Grove. He did welding and mechanical work for area farmers. Richard operated the Stoplight Bar and Grill in Eskridge. He was a member of the Wabaunsee County Fire District No. 5 where he had been active for the past 40 years. Richard also was involved in The Eskridge Labor Day Rodeo for many years and was a committee member for 15 years.

Richard was preceded in death by his father Dale Martin Kemp on September 11, 2008.

On April 29, 1983 he was united in marriage to Connie Eichman in Alma. She survives of the home.

Other survivors include a son, SrA Quinton Kemp stationed in Kunsan, South Korea;

A daughter, Corey Kemp, Eskridge; his mother, Hazel Kemp, Eskridge; a brother, Randy (Deanna) Kemp, Eskridge; a sister, Ronda VanHoose, Yates Center.

Memorial services will be at 1:00 P.M. Saturday, April 16, 2011 at the Eskridge United Methodist Church. Memorial contributions may be made to Wabaunsee County Fire District No. 5 and sent in care of Piper Funeral Home, 714 Maple St., St. Marys, Kansas 66536. Online condolences may be sent to www.piperfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

APR **16**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Eskridge United Methodist Church
Eskridge, KS 66423

Tribute Wall



“ *Piper Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Kemp*



Piper Funeral Home - April 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ *Connie and family - We can't begin to tell you how sorry we are for your loss - Richard was a wonderful person and a terrific friend. You are all in our thoughts and prayers. Cliff and Pam Smith*

Pamela Smith - April 15, 2011 at 10:29 PM

GB

“ *Hazel, Randy, Rhonda and Connie/kids: It's been several years since I last spoke to Richard. However, having grown up together only a few houses away from you, I have many memories of Richard and all of you. Since learning of his passing, my thoughts have been dominated by memories of those long ago times with Richard and all of you. I wish you peace in this difficult time.*

George Bowers

George Bowers - April 13, 2011 at 11:32 PM

NU

“ *Connie & Family,
We are thinking of you and your family and wishing you peace
during this sad time.
-New Century Credit Union, Your Financial Family*

New Century Credit Union - April 13, 2011 at 09:41 AM

BK

“ *Connie and Family: So very sorry to learn of
your husbands passing. I know that he meant
a lot to the Eskridge Community and in
particular to his many friends. Sending you
and your family prayers at this difficult time.
Susie and Bob Sachs, Topeka, KS.*



Bob and Susie Sachs, Topeka, KS. - April 13, 2011 at 08:41 AM

ER

“ *Connie, Quinton and Corey,
We are all so very sorry for your loss. I wanted to pass on my
thoughts from my mom to you. Connie, she remembers how much
help Richard and Quinton were when she had her shop in the
Waugh house. She told me he was always so nice to me and if I
needed anything done he was willing to do it. Mom sends her love
and sympathy to you all. As do we.
Darrell, Erin, Hannah, Conner and Mai*

Erin Rush - April 13, 2011 at 07:04 AM

KF

“ *Connie, Quinton and Corey:
I feel truly blessed to have known you and Richard for the last 5 years. In that time you have all quickly become family to me, just as you have been to Steven for his entire life.*

For the last few days I have been replaying the his ever consistent greeting to me in my head.... "Well Hi there Sweetie!", always with a smile and a hug. Generally our conversations were followed by requests to meet at the shop and play pitch. That greeting though, will always be with me. The site of him and the expectation for it have always made me smile.

Thank you for sharing your husband and father with me for the last 5 years. Partner was a wonderful man. I love you and my thoughts and prayers are with you always.

Kelly Foster

Kelly Foster - April 12, 2011 at 10:51 PM

DD

“ *Connie - So very sorry to hear of your loss. Our prayers and thoughts are with you and your family. Richard was a super nice guy and will be greatly missed by everyone.*

Dean and Donna Denton

Dean and Donna Denton - April 12, 2011 at 07:40 PM

BC

“ *Richard was a quiet man - a "thinker" instead of a "talker". Still waters run deep.....*

Richard was also a very kind man and a very hard worker - and oh, so photogenic! Also, he loved his kids - and it showed.

I remember when I first moved to Eskridge and he was my next-door-neighbor - I was trying to kill weeds in my yard while Bob was away on harvest and he came over with his sprayer and sprayed them for me. Didn't say much while he was doing it - never introduced himself - just sprayed my weeds, then went back to his own yard. I did finally get to know him and Connie and we were great friends for years to come after that. We took our kids fishing together, ate meals together. He worked with Bob on many "side jobs" like roofing a house on a 108 degree day!

My favorite memory is the time Richard helped us put up the deck and privacy fence around our swimming pool in town. When we were all done, Richard went home, cut off a pair of overalls and put them on, came back to the pool and got in! He floated inside an inner-tube all afternoon! Richard wasn't exactly a water bug, but he did enjoy that day!

*Beverly Clark
Eskridge, Kansas*

Beverly Clark - April 12, 2011 at 02:06 PM

“ Rose Bush Theory

***** From my book, “Life is a Choice” written in 1999, part of my first book, “Keep on the Sunny Side of Life.”

Many years after my husband’s death, 1982, still mourning Loren’s loss; my favorite brother, Bob Eastman, 1988, (age 54,) died a lingering cancer death and I spent many hours with him. I had time to console him with our childhood memories by laughs and our favorite taped music. As I sat with him during his last weeks, I spent time on the front porch outside his bedroom window in the porch swing when he slept. There was a big rose bush there that had not been manicured because his wife was busy keeping her head above water taking care of Bob and keeping her job.

One morning early with the dew on the roses and the sun shining on the dew (God’s angle,) I formed what I call my “Rose Bush Theory of Life and Death.”

The Rose Bush Theory

I relate life and death to a big, beautiful rose bush. Picture a large blooming rose bush and you can see your family or circle of friends. Some of the roses are in full bloom with gorgeous color and perfect shapes. Some roses are starting to form buds. Some of the buds never complete the full growing process. Some of the roses are dead and remain on the bush, while others are starting to wither.

Now, relate each and every one of those blooms to different members of your family or your circle of friends and you can see the living and dying process. Life is a process with death being the final phase. Please do not wait ---- live life to the fullest each and every day.

Keep in mind, to maintain that “rose bush” (loved ones) big and pretty, it must be fed, watered, nurtured, pruned and protected from the elements and loved with a gentle caress plus some tender talk.

*The care is more essential when caring for people. 1995 ******

*Love and prayers,
Dorothy Masters
Harveyville, Ks.*

Dorothy M. Masters - April 12, 2011 at 09:27 AM

DO

“*Connie & Family - very sorry to hear about Richard's passing - he will be missed - even though we haven't kept in touch - he was a great guy - our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. He will be missed as one of the "last of the great ones - class of '71".*



Diane(Bush) O'Mara - April 12, 2011 at 08:27 AM



“*My prayers are with you all at the loss of a great man.*

Deb Langley McGrogan

Deb McGrogan - April 12, 2011 at 08:08 AM

TP

“*Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.
Mike, Jami, Leah & Taylor*



The Pipers - April 11, 2011 at 03:39 PM

JM

Connie, Quinton and Corey
You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Jean McGinley - April 12, 2011 at 08:44 AM