



Kenneth D. "Ken" Richardson

April 4, 1948 - July 18, 2025

Kenneth "Ken" Doyle Richardson, 77, (beloved husband, dad, papa, and papa G) of

Farwell, passed away peacefully on Friday, July 18, 2025, at his home, surrounded by

his loving family. Ken's strength and resilience was evident by his long hard fought

battle with cancer.

Ken was born on April 4, 1948, in Traverse City, MI, to Doyle and Ida (Nicola) Richardson. He grew up on the family farm on Richardson road in Ellsworth, MI. Ken

graduated from Ellsworth High School in 1966, where he excelled at football and

basketball. Ken married his high school sweetheart, Linda Vandenberg on January 24,

1970.

After earning his Master's in Education from Central Michigan University, he devoted

over 30 years to Farwell Area Schools. He served primarily as the middle school

principal before completing his career as the district's superintendent. Not only did he

make a difference in education, he also coached football, basketball and

youth sports

for many years. Ken's dedication and passion for education touched the lives of

countless students, athletes, teachers, and staff.

KDR was an avid hunter and fisherman. His love for sports led him to play men's

fast-pitch softball for over 25 years which resulted in him being inducted into the

Michigan Amateur Softball Association Hall of Fame in 2004. Ken enjoyed spending his

time golfing and being a board member at Eagle Glen Golf Course, where he made

countless life long friends.

Some of his happiest times were spent in the woods at "Ken's Kamp" and spending time

with his family.

His passing has left a void in the hearts of many individuals, including his hunting,

fishing, and golfing buddies.

Those who knew Ken will remember him for his desire to help others and loyalty. His

quick wit and one liners were gifts to everyone who knew him.

We ask that you remember him not for the way his life ended, but for the way it was

lived, and for the profound impact it had on the lives of those who had the pleasure of

knowing him.

Ken leaves behind his wife, Linda, of Farwell; daughter Darcie (Hugh) Lewis of Farwell;

and daughters Heather (Jeremy) Plain and Michelle (Ryan) Blystone, both of Rockford.

Ken is also survived by his cherished grandchildren; Haley (Chad) Carncross, Kaden

Lewis, Ty and Lauren Blystone, and Mason and Sadie Plain; and great-granddaughter

Eloise Carncross. He is survived by his sisters, Sonya (John) Martin and Loretta

Richardson, along with his lifelong hunting buddy/nephew Mike (Val) Martin and niece

Julie (Joe) Jones. Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Doyle and Ida Richardson.

Ken's family would like to express their heartfelt thanks to Tyler, R.N., from The Care

Team Hospice for her guidance and support these past few months.

In accordance with Ken's wishes, cremation has taken place. A celebration of Ken's life will take place on the afternoon of Sunday, September 7, 2025 at Eagle Glen Golf Course in Farwell. Memorial contributions in honor of Ken may be directed to Care Team Hospice, Flint Office, 5401 Gateway Center, Suite B., Flint, Michigan 48507, the Clare County Community Foundation (www.clareccf.org/giving) or to the Clare Area Junior Golf c/o Eagle Glen Golf Course. Arrangements were handled by the Farwell Chapel of Stephenson-Wyman Funeral Home. Online condolences may be shared on Ken's tribute page at www.stephenson-wyman.com

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP 7 (ET)

Eagle Glen Golf Course
1251 Clubhouse Drive
Farwell, MI 48622

Tribute Wall

KM

“ So heartbroken to hear this. Ken was a wonderful man and had Farwell schools totally in his heart. Hope him and Al are getting some great golfing done.

Karen Meister - July 27, 2025 at 02:25 AM

SL

“ Spent a time or three in his office in Middle school. Good guy though, I remember he always had this line he used with me "Thats a promise not a threat" Always saw the good in people.

Steven Landon - July 24, 2025 at 01:26 PM



“ My heart breaks at the news of Ken Richardson's passing. I am the teacher I am because Mr Richardson believed in me. He always told me... do what is right for kids... trust your instincts and you will make a difference in the lives of your students. The content will follow. Whether teaching Speech and Careers, Mathematics, Dance, or Theatre it was a common thing to see Ken sitting in the back of the room or in the doorway. He always knew what was going on in his building.... He could see my strengths even when I couldn't. Those of you who have been my students have been touch by the grace of this amazing man. Rest in Peace Ken ... YOU made a difference

Margie McJames - July 20, 2025 at 08:05 PM

MG

Margie McJames
I totally agree you was a great teacher and Ken Richardson was a great principal both of you where great role models for so many students ❤️

Michael Gray - July 21, 2025 at 10:53 PM

RS

“ I’m so sorry to hear of Ken’s passing. Linda, my heart goes out to you, the girls and their families. He was a wonderful administrator who had a quick wit and great sense of humor. He will be missed. Prayers!

Robyn Schunk - July 20, 2025 at 07:34 PM

Scott Hockin

“ RIP Ken, My condolences to the entire family. Ken was a fine Gentleman and revered member of the Farwell Schools Family! He was a neighbor and Friend of My Family. My Mother will expect You on Thursday for coffee hour in Heaven!!! ❤️

Scott Hockin - July 20, 2025 at 05:56 PM

RH

“ He was the best teacher assistant principal of farewell high school I ever had that later the principal of the middle school of my children he was a great man and will be missed by many thank you Mr Richardson for always caring about us even the trouble makers like me lol Becky Hadley



rebecca hadley-Thomas - July 20, 2025 at 05:50 PM

KA

“ Linda,Darcie,Michelle,Heather and family. So sorry for your loss. Ken was a role model for so many students and the entire community. He was a no nonsense caring individual who certainly was respected by those who knew him. He made such an impact on his students in his middle school. Farwell’s middle school was his. He will be missed but never forgotten.

Butch & Kaye

Kaye Adams - July 20, 2025 at 05:31 PM

RH

“ Condolences to Linda, Darcie, Michelle, Heather and family. What a role model. The way he conducted himself earned the respect of many, including myself.

Had the opportunity to catch for him in the middle school gym in spring training, man Ken could throw a softball underhand that i couldn't comprehend. Rest in peace Ken. Love and respect Bob

Robert Hallas - July 20, 2025 at 03:05 PM

 Scott Hockin

Bobby! 😎✌️❤️

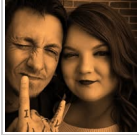
Surely he snapped a few meter sticks on your rear!!! 🤔

Scott Hockin - July 20, 2025 at 05:47 PM

DA

Good bye my friend great memories thanks now no more suffering

Dawn Hallas Allie - July 23, 2025 at 03:20 PM



“*RIP to a Principal I'll never forget. He was a great man whom I have many fond memories of. I was in trouble a lot, rightfully, but Mr. R always took it easy on me. He'd talk to me about why I had acted the ways I did. He'd explain a lot of things to me when I was at a tough age.*

I'll never forget hearing him coming down the halls, whistling while jingling the change in his pocket. "Good morning, Carabelle!" (nickname he gave me)

I also remember prank calling him & him knowing right away who it was. Honestly, it wasn't even a negative thing. It was all just part of growing up & fortunately he understood that.

I got into a lot of trouble, but I also got amazing grades. I still have all my awards that he signed, his messages in my yearbooks, my report cards with his marks, etc. I cherish those memories.

Mr. Richardson was a very important part of an extremely pivotal point in my life. He is & will always will be remembered with extreme gratitude & honor.

I send my deepest condolences to his family & all that have lost him. He's gone, but won't be forgotten.

Carrie Sensing - July 20, 2025 at 01:05 PM

ML

“*I'm so very sorry to hear of Ken's passing. My heart goes out to Linda and girls at this difficult time in your lives. I have wonderful memories of Ken working at the Middle School as a Para Pro....he was such a big tease with a great sense of humor. He will be missed by all who knew him. Rest in peace, my friend!*

Marion Loll - July 20, 2025 at 12:38 PM

BT

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. May God's strength help you thru this very difficult time. Our sincere Love & Hugs for all.

Bonnie Thomas - July 20, 2025 at 11:57 AM

JE


“ Sorry for your loss. Ken was a great man to be around. Funny and caring! We all suffer his loss. Prayers to all of his family! 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Jeffery ans Donna English - July 20, 2025 at 05:36 AM

AR

“ Linda & family, so sorry to hear of your loss!

Arlene Robison - July 20, 2025 at 04:23 AM

 Betty Shilling-Schweiker

“ sorry to hear

Betty Shilling-Schweikert - July 19, 2025 at 10:29 PM

KS

“ Mr Richardson made you feel like you mattered and he made a lasting impact on my life by taking the time to listen at a time of conflict during my middle school years and he was able to show me that bullying would not be tolerated.

Kathaleen Strouse - July 19, 2025 at 09:21 PM

CN

“ *Mr. Richardson was such a fair and caring principal and so quick to do what ever he was able to help make special ci rcumstances as easy as possible and to make every child feel valued. My sympathy and prayers to the family Carol Strouse McNerney*

carol Mc Nerney - July 19, 2025 at 09:02 PM

CS

“ *My sincere condolences to Ken's family and friends. Ken hired me as the Middle School art teacher in 1990 at Farwell, where I taught for 21 years. I found Ken to be a man and boss of great integrity and honor. Although we didn't always agree, we shared a mutual respect and some great laughs. He ALWAYS had my back when needed, and gave me everything for my job that Farwell Area Schools could afford. He trusted me to know best how to teach my subjects of art and biology. He was always straight up and honest, with no hidden agenda. He could be tough on you for a mistake, but was quick to forgive and forget. It was an honor and privilege to serve the community with him, and I have, and will, miss him greatly. He was the first and best school administrator of my career, hands down. Goodbye, my old friend, you are fondly remembered, and may you rest well and peacefully.*

Chuck Simmons - July 19, 2025 at 08:42 PM

JE

“ *I remember in 7th grade I did a back flip in the hallway and I busted my elbow open on a locker. He had me come to his office and sit with him for the rest of the day. We are McDonald's and we watched the goonies. He really was a caring man and loved all his students. May he rest in heaven 💕💕*

Jennie - July 19, 2025 at 06:54 PM

BU

“ Was old school, with heart, compassion and discipline. Made me laugh and want to come to work for him. Enjoyed a beverage with him on a few occasions. Told stories that always ended in laughter. Yes, he left places better than he found it. Butch

Butch - July 19, 2025 at 05:09 PM



really good man, jim got to see him alot when he worked at school. our boys loved him, jim&beth morrow

Beth Morrow - July 20, 2025 at 10:38 PM

BB

I had great respect for him was always beside me or in front i will miss that

barry van buskirk - July 21, 2025 at 08:09 AM