



Kenneth James Ruiz

March 18, 1938 - December 18, 2018

Kenneth James Ruiz, 80, of Leaf River went to be with his Lord and Savior on December 18, 2018. Born on March 18, 1938 in Rockford, son of Vicente and Winona (West) Ruiz. Kenn attended West High School and graduated from Wheaton Academy. He obtained his Bachelor degree from Wheaton College and his Master's degree from University of Illinois. He was united in marriage to Patricia Long on December 26, 1964 in Rockford. Kenn began his career at Lincoln Middle School, where he taught general science classes, and later taught at Guilford High School where he taught chemistry, biology and anatomy/physiology. Kenn was truly called to his profession and shared his love of the sciences with all the children he taught over the years by bringing science to life with his animal demonstrations and fun experiments. Students looked forward to having him as an instructor. His faith was very important to him, he loved attending church at the Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris, his Bible study group and serving the Lord. He went on several mission trips to Mexico, including one with his four siblings. Kenn was devoted to his wife and children. They traveled the country when the kids were young and went on camping and diving trips and other family vacations. His love of adventure and travel continued in his retirement, Kenn and Patricia traveled all over the world. He was always active and on the move. Kenn had to be doing something productive each day, so that he could reflect on what he accomplished at the end of the day. Kenn was well loved by his entire family and was known for keeping their lives interesting. Survived by his wife,

Patricia; children, Kendra (Michael) Oltmanns, Kathleen (Keith) Collins, Kirsten (Matt Tomaszewski) Ruiz, Ken (Toni) Ruiz; grandchildren, Danielle (Cory) Ruiz-Williams, Allison Collins, Gavin Collins; great-grandchildren, Camden and Amelia Williams; siblings, Richard (JoAnn) Ruiz, Bonnie Kostantacos, Keith (Darla) Ruiz; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins. Preceded in death by his parents and sister, Edith Ford. Memorial Visitation on Saturday, December 22, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m; Celebration of Life at 2:00 p.m. at Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris, 102 S. Seminary Ave. Pastor Bruce McKanna will officiate. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family to be designated at a later date. Grace Funeral & Cremation Services assisted the family. Share a memory or condolence at www.graceFH.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

DEC **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris
102 S. Seminary Ave.
Mt. Morris, IL

Celebration of Life

DEC **22**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Evangelical Free Church of Mt. Morris
102 S. Seminary Ave.
Mt. Morris, IL

Tribute Wall

SP

“ I did some coyote hunting on Mr. Ruiz land a couple yrs & got to know him abit. I intantly liked him & enjoyed the occassional chat with him. I wasn't supried by the outstanding things I read about him in his obituary. What a truly great & interesting man! (I'm the guy that gave him & Patricia the snowy woods picture I took called "Ruiz Woods")

Scott Parnell - December 23, 2018 at 12:31 PM

BK

“ So sorry I can't be with all of you today. You are in my prayers this very moment as the visitation is going on, and will be in prayer as the service goes on. My heart grieves along with yours. May you feel God' presence and peace knowing Ken is spending Cristmas at home with Jesus. My love to all of you. Bonnie

Bonnie Kostantacos - December 22, 2018 at 02:30 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Kenneth James Ruiz.



December 22, 2018 at 12:07 PM

MD

“ I’m sorry for your loss. Mr. Ruiz was one of my favorite teachers. I enjoyed his biology class.

Kristen- thanks for sharing your Dad with us all at Guilford

Mike Delmore

Michael Delmore - December 21, 2018 at 11:35 PM

KH

“ Although I was probably one of the WORST biology students Mr. Ruiz ever had at Guilford...I will always remember how kind and cheerful he was...he even talked me into petting the snake he brought back from Colorado..."it's as soft as the leather of your purse"..he said...and it was ...Love to you and your family Mr. Ruiz...

Kimberlee Hartsfield-Seeley - December 20, 2018 at 07:44 PM