



Kenneth Schafman

February 5, 1950 - April 27, 2025

Kenneth Elmer Schafman, 75, of Machesney Park, passed away on April 27, 2025. Ken was born on February 5, 1950, in Rockford, the son of Leo and Dorothy (Wendt) Schafman. He grew up in the area and graduated from Hononegah High School with the Class of 1968. After high school, he continued his education at Western Illinois University.

Ken spent many years building a career he was proud of at EcoLab, eventually retiring after a long and dedicated tenure. But the highlight of his life came when he met Kathleen Kinart - the love of his life - at the Bowlmore on Central in Rockford, thanks to a mutual friend. They were married on April 10, 1984, and built a beautiful life together.

Ken is survived by his beloved wife, Kathy; his children, Craig (Phyllis) Knipprath, Krista (Keith Pleasant) Knipprath, Jason (Allie Hinz) Schafman, and Steven (Cory Roys) Schafman; six cherished grandchildren; and two precious great-grandchildren. He also leaves behind his brother, John (Cathy) Schafman; his brother-in-law, Steven Steinmetz; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Henry (Marilyn) Klotz and Kayann Steinmetz.

Ken loved the simple joys in life including spending time with his wife and children on family road trips to the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls and Disney World in their younger years. He also loved fishing on a quiet afternoon, cheering on his favorite Chicago teams (the Cubs, Bears, and Bulls), and taking night trips to the casino in Dubuque. Above all, he was a devoted husband, a proud father and grandfather, a loyal brother, and just an all-around good guy. His warm heart and steady presence will be deeply missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

Private family services will be held. Share a memory or condolence at www.graceFH.com.