



Dennis R. Drabek

March 28, 1946 - May 20, 2022

Dennis was born March 28, 1946, in Loup City, Nebraska to Richard and Alyce (Piontkowski) Drabek and later graduated from Loup City High School. He married the love of his life, Diane Alber, on November 19, 1968. They enjoyed many adventures and one another's company for 53 years.

Dennis died on Friday, May 20, 2022 at his home in Kearney surrounded by his family

after a 9-month fight with Stage 4 lung cancer. During this time, Dennis showed the same courage and bravery that enabled him to proudly serve his country in the 25 Division during the Vietnam War for 13-months in 1968-1969. Dennis was a member of the Legion and the First Lutheran Church in Kearney, NE.

His dedication and work ethic was unparalleled. Denny worked at Eaton's Corporation in Kearney, NE (1973-2009) for 36 years with perfect attendance. He often worked 7-day weeks for months at a time but never complained. He retired in 2009. During his extra time, he enjoyed playing Keno and playing cards with friends and family.

Denny was curious, intelligent, and extremely detail-oriented so that he completed projects and tasks with surgical precision. Denny could remember everything that he read, loved doing Word Jumble Puzzles, and thoroughly

enjoyed watching the History Channel every chance he could. He was particularly intrigued and became somewhat obsessed with the idea of finding treasure while watching the Curse of Oak Island. He attempted to find his own treasure by doing scratch cards for fun. Denny loved the limelight, but he also loved the sunlight and being outdoors. He was an avid outdoorsman. He taught himself to hunt and fish at a young age and later passed his knowledge on to his siblings, wife, children, and grandchildren. Denny took every chance he could to fish, hunt, and camp with family and friends. He visited many national parks and spent his free time researching his next adventure and the best gas mileage he could get. His favorite trips included Hawaii, Florida, Cayman, Cancun, the Grand Tetons, and the park that made the greatest impact on him, Glacier National Park.

The two of them spent countless hours sitting on the loveseat, listening to, and singing songs with a little bob of his head and a twinkle in his big blue eyes. Denny, aka, the "Big D" was also known to perform karaoke on occasion to songs by AC/DC and Johnny Cash. Being of Polish heritage, you can bet your "dupa" that he loved apricot and cherry kolaches, Red Bull Vodka, a beer, and a good polka. Denny is survived by his wife, Diane (Kearney, NE); his three daughters, Denise Stubbs & spouse, Scott, of Lincoln, NE, Dena Harshbarger & spouse, Kyle, of Kearney, NE, and Dawn Dulitz of Kearney, NE; his six grandchildren: Mandi Long, Jory Long, Kolten Harshbarger, Masie Dulitz, Korbin Harshbarger, and Morgan Dulitz; 3 great-grandchildren: Steven, Jonathon, and Anthony Long; his sisters, Darlene Dorzynski of St. Paul, NE, Donna Maciejewski and Dorothy Drabek of Loup City, NE, and his brother, Dwayne Drabek of Kearney, NE.

Funeral services will be 1:30 p.m. Friday, May 27, 2022 at First Lutheran Church in Kearney with Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson and Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson officiating. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery with Military honors provided by the Nebraska National Guard Funeral Honors Team.

Visitation will be held 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday and one hour prior to the service all at the church.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 233-3244

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 26. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

First Lutheran Church
3315 Ave G
Kearney, NE 68847

Funeral Service

MAY 27. 1:30 PM (CT)

First Lutheran Church
3315 Ave G
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *Dennis R. Drabek*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Aunt Diane, Dena and Dawn my heart is heavy but the Uncle Denny I remember was light hearted. I can hear his laughter. Uncle Denny was a man who enjoyed life's most simple pleasures. I pay tribute to him for his military service given during the Vietnam War. May God rest his soul.*

*Love,
His niece Gwen Pearson*

GWEN PEARSON - May 27, 2022 at 10:16 AM



“ *To the family of Denny and to his brother “Coach”, you have been in my thoughts and prayers since I saw that Denny had passed. Denny was one of the most positive and friendly people I worked with at Eaton. May you feel wrapped in all of the prayers of those holding you in prayer and may you feel peace. Angela Flies*

Angela Flies - May 26, 2022 at 08:24 PM

DK

“ We were so sad to hear of Denny's passing.

Susan and I were classmates of his in the Class of 1964 at LCHS.

We send our deepest sympathy to you and your family.

You are in our thoughts and prayers.

Diana (Bass) Keith and Susan (Bass) Trompke (The Bass twins)

Diana Keith - May 26, 2022 at 01:33 PM

FM

“ Diane and family, I am so sorry for your loss,
may God grant you peace and comfort as you
adjust to a new way of life without Denny.



Fran Murr - May 24, 2022 at 07:31 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Dennis R. Drabek.



May 24, 2022 at 05:53 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dennis R. Drabek.*



May 24, 2022 at 04:14 AM



“ *Dennis, I have many memories but the one that sticks with me the most, was the time Russ & I visited and we all went for an evening walk. We walked for ever and enjoyed our time with you & family. Low & behold, it was getting dark fast. We decided to take a short cut, could hardly see in front of us. We were cutting through this park and the lawn sprinklers came on. Yes, we all got wet but it was like being a kid again. It was fun & we laughed all the way home. Rest in peace! Love Russ & Barb*



Barb Montgomery - May 23, 2022 at 08:46 PM



“ *With Distinction was purchased for the family of Dennis R. Drabek.*



May 22, 2022 at 03:37 PM