



Kenneth Clare Mills

June 2, 1942 - May 25, 2021

Kenneth Clare Mills, age 78, of Rudyard, Michigan, passed away unexpectedly on May 25, 2021, at his home surrounded by family. He was born on June 2, 1942, in Newberry, Michigan to Kenneth Arthur and Joyce May (Farwell) Mills.

Ken shared fond memories of growing up in Trout Lake, where he went to school through eighth grade. He graduated from Rudyard High School in 1960. During his high school years, he acquired the nick name of Archie or Arch. In 1961 he attended the National School of Meat Cutting in Toledo, Ohio. He worked for nine years cutting meat in Marquette, Rudyard and Sault Marie. Ken married his high school sweetheart, Fayda Jean Wartella on February 17, 1962. They moved to Rudyard in 1963. He went to work for UPS in 1969 and retired in 1999.

Ken was known for his love of nature and competitive sports. He played fast pitch softball and horseshoes, and often mentioned the only thing he missed about school was playing football. He had a passion for trapping, hunting, and fishing and looked forward to working in the family garden, expanding every year, mushroom hunting in the spring and picking berries. He enjoyed spending time at Wegwas Lake and at Camp Quag, passing on his love of nature to his beloved children and grandchildren. He participated in many snowmobile races, including the I-500, placing second in 1970. He enjoyed

being with family and friends and with people in general. He lived life to the fullest and will be missed by his family and everyone who knew him.

At a young age, Ken showed signs of being an entrepreneur, selling day old newspapers and bouquets of arbutus on the passenger trains stopping at the hub in Trout Lake, and later night crawlers to fishermen. In his 40's he obtained a license under the name of West Pine River Sales, selling canoes, kayaks, and later going to sports shows and selling framed prints.

Ken and his fellow local trappers started the Northern Great Lakes Fur Harvesters Association, serving as president for many years, assisting with the annual convention in Kinross. He was a member of the National Trappers Association, Lower Michigan Trappers, and UP Trappers. He and Fayda attended National Trappers conventions in Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. He was an active member of St. James Lutheran Church in Rudyard and served on the Council.

Ken is survived by his wife and children: Kenneth (Christine) Mills of Harbor Springs, Michigan; Carrie Mills of Trout Lake, Michigan; Steven (Kristin) Mills of Kinross, Michigan; and Danielle Dettling of San Francisco, California. Grandchildren include, Olivia (Grant) Dale, Jessica Mills, Owen Mills, Zachary Mills, Dylan Mills, Hayden Mills and Natalie Mills. Surviving siblings include brother, Calvin (Betsy) Mills of (Ozark) Moran, Michigan; sister, Rebecca (Robert) Revard of North Carolina. Surviving in-laws include: Charles (Mary) Wartella of Moran; Joanne Wartella of New Castle, WA, Delores 'Dee' Wartella of Kinross, Michigan and Maricarol 'Merk' Wartella of Madison, Wisconsin; friend, Janice Lacrosse (Ron) of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario; and many uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces and nephews.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, in-laws Robert and Verena Wartella, sister, Linda (Jim) Barrett; brothers-in-law Clifford Wartella, Raymond

Wartella, Ronald Wartella, R. Gerald Wartella and F. Michael Wartella; sisters-in-law, Delphine (Charles) Frazier, and Sandra (Robert) Johnston; Nieces Lori Fay Frazier, Dena Wartella.

Memorials may be made to St. James Lutheran Church, PO Box 156, Rudyard, MI 49780 or Hospice of EUP.

A Memorial gathering will be held at St. James Lutheran Church in Rudyard, Michigan on Saturday, September 18, 2021, at 10:00 AM with an 11:00 AM service to follow. A luncheon will take place after the service.

Galer Funeral Homes and Cremation in Pickford, Michigan is serving the family. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.rgalerfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering

SEP **18**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. James Lutheran Church
11118 W. 3rd Street
Rudyard, MI 49780

Memorial Service

SEP **18**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. James Lutheran Church
11118 W. 3rd Street
Rudyard, MI 49780

Tribute Wall



“ Kenneth Clare Mills

October 05, 2023 at 09:54 AM



“ Kenneth Clare Mills

October 02, 2023 at 10:14 PM



“ Kenneth Clare Mills

September 01, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ I would like to offer my condolences to the family of Kenny Mills. Most of my family grew up in Trout Lake along with the Mills family. Ken was about the same age as my sister Nina; Calvin was the same age as my sister Jeanne; and Linda was good friends with my younger sister, Janice. Ken was a hunting partner with my brother Wayne in the infamous Quagmire Swamp. Wayne memorialized Ken and their hunting buddies in his poetry centered around their hunting exploits in their search for "Triple Track," the big-footed buck. I remember Ken as always having a nice smile and good sense of humor. To his remaining family I would like to say, on behalf of Wayne and the remainder of the Peake family, we send our sympathies and hope your memories sustain you in this time of loss.

Linda (Peake) Dalimonte

Linda Dalimonte - June 11, 2021 at 06:26 PM

MA

“ Dear Fayda, I am expressing my condolences today on behalf of my mother in law, Kathleen, and I. She shared so many great laughing moments with you in your years at Rudyard schools. While I do not know your husband I wanted to wish you sincere condolences in your time of sorrow. God bless you and I hope our paths cross again some day.

Morehouse Angela - June 08, 2021 at 12:52 PM

KO

“ This saddens me so much. Ken and Fayda were such a big part of my life growing up, as they were my parents Best friends. It seems that most of my happiness memories include Ken, Fayda Kenny and Carrie, (sorry Steven and Danielle you were a bit younger) Our family camping trips to Trout Lake were the best way I can think of to spend the summer, and I carried that tradition on to my family. Whether he was talking about hunting and trapping , fishing, snowmobiling, or his family, he was smiling. That’s what I will remember, he lived life and it showed! I pray God will comfort the family with peace, knowing Ken is with our Lord and Savior. The Bible says, God goes ahead a prepares a place for us..... I can just picture Ken with a huge walleye in his boat, just smiling ❤️

Kori - June 08, 2021 at 09:21 AM

JW

“ My deepest sympathy, Fayda, for your loss. You and your family are in my prayers.

Judy Webb

Judith Webb - June 07, 2021 at 05:16 PM

MS

“ Our deep sympathy for your loss. Your family has always been such a good neighbor and thoughtful friends. Sincerely, Margi(Malaski) & Steve Stutz

Margi Stutz - June 04, 2021 at 09:38 PM

BW

“ Ken MILLS, known by many....and loved by more. I moved to Ruyard in 1964 while Ken was cutting meat at the Co-Op. He could visit, laugh, and entertain me while doing his cutting.....never cut a finger!!! I always respected his knowledge and energy no matter what he did. I admired his energy and enthusiasm and love of Outdoor activities. I was envious of his Hunting, trapping, and fishing trips and appreciated his sharing the results. Over the years I sold many Deer hides, some with extra holes, and wore many gloves taken in trade.

Ken will be missed by all who knew him and will be remembered by us all. Cherish the memories!!!

Bob and Sally WILES

Bob WILES - June 02, 2021 at 02:17 PM