



Kerwin J. Karsten

October 21, 1936 - December 4, 2024

Kerwin J. Karsten passed away on December 4, 2024 surrounded by his loving wife and family following a brief illness.

He lived a life of devotion to family and faith, known by so many through his work as a community banker and his active involvement as a volunteer at churches, non-profits, and local service organizations.

Born in 1936 to Walter and Anne Karsten, he grew up on the family farm in Vogel Center where he learned the value of family, community, and hard work. He graduated from Northern Michigan Christian School where he excelled in basketball and baseball.

Kerwin was an active member of the Cadillac Christian Reformed Church where he served as a Deacon, an Elder, and Treasurer. Most recently he was a member of the Rehoboth Reformed Church.

He enjoyed a rewarding career in the banking industry, working at a number of local banks leading up to a twenty-five year career at what at the time became Old Kent Bank. He retired in 1997 as Vice-President and during retirement worked to help start what is now Mercantile Bank.

Kerwin was active in the community, serving as President of the Cadillac

Exchange Club, Treasurer of the Cadillac Chamber of Commerce, Salvation Army (Board of Directors), Friendship Family Home (Board of Directors), Missaukee County Parks (Board), and NOC Industries (Board of Directors for over 20 years).

He enjoyed camping, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, wood-working, the Detroit Tigers (and any) baseball and spending winters in Florida. He was an avid golfer who proudly scored two Hole-in-One's in his lifetime. If you played golf with Kerwin you knew you might be able to out-drive him but he never had to join you in the rough looking for his ball.

Kerwin was preceded in death by his first wife Marlene Karsten, son Timothy Karsten, and brother Vernon Karsten (and wife Sandra), and step-grandson Colton Bowen.

He is survived by wife Eleanor (Bode) Karsten; sons Kraig (Kim) Karsten and Randal (Elizabeth) Karsten; daughter Kim (Matt) Curtis; daughter-in-law, Penny Karsten; step-son Jeff (Becki) Koetje, and step-daughter Sheryl (Jeffery) Whitehouse. He is also survived by grandchildren: Matthew (Danielle) Karsten, Elizabeth (Clinton) Jameson, Alexander (Madhu) Karsten, Elise (Houston) Parks, Jarred Karsten, Leonard (Hannah) Lach, Jordan (Lisa) Hoekwater, Ryan (Taylor) Hoekwater, Cole (Cristina) Whitehouse, Josh (Jessica) Whitehouse, Maggie (Dustin) Ladd, and Grace Whitehouse, along with great-grandchildren, Ethan, Emma, Parker, Hudson, Louise, George, Shiva, Gavin, Tyler, Evelyn, Wyatt, Gage, Celia, Ava, Johnathon, Franklin, and Maeve; and siblings: Judy (Gordon) Ellens and Eugene "Butch" (Mary) Karsten.

Funeral services will be held 3:00 PM Monday, December 9, 2024 at Rehoboth Reformed Church with Pastor Kathy Vana officiating. Visitation will be Sunday, December 8, 2024 from 7-9 PM at Peterson Funeral & Cremation

Services in Cadillac. Burial will be at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Rehoboth Reformed Church or Love INC. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 8. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

Peterson Funeral and Cremation Services
205 East Cass Street
Cadillac, MI 49601

Funeral Service

DEC 9. 3:00 PM (ET)

Rehoboth Reformed Church
8372 S Lucas Rd
McBain, MI 49657-9106
(231) 775-7943

Tribute Wall



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kerwin J. Karsten.

December 08, 2024 at 09:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kerwin J. Karsten.

December 08, 2024 at 04:34 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kerwin J. Karsten.



December 08, 2024 at 04:34 PM



“ The Kowalskis, Pacinis, and Schmidtskis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kerwin J. Karsten.

The Kowalskis, Pacinis, and Schmidtskis - December 08, 2024 at 01:50 PM

TS

“ *The Kowalskis, Pacinis, and Schmidtskis purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kerwin J. Karsten.*



The Kowalskis, Pacinis, and Schmidtskis - December 08, 2024 at 01:50 PM

JW

“ *Joshua & Jessica Whitehouse purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kerwin J. Karsten.*



Joshua & Jessica Whitehouse - December 08, 2024 at 01:42 PM

JW

“ *Joshua & Jessica Whitehouse planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kerwin J. Karsten.*

Joshua & Jessica Whitehouse - December 08, 2024 at 01:42 PM

SG

“ *Sheryl, Jeff, Dustin, Maggie & Grace purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Kerwin J. Karsten.*



Sheryl, Jeff, Dustin, Maggie & Grace - December 07, 2024 at 05:09 PM

LM

“ Love, Pat Cindy Laura John Ken Michelle purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kerwin J. Karsten.



Love, Pat Cindy Laura John Ken Michelle - December 06, 2024 at 02:23 PM

TO

“ I never knew or heard of anyone who didn't like Kerwin. His reputation in Cadillac and the surrounding area was sterling. He was a fine man indeed.

Tim O'Neill - December 06, 2024 at 11:50 AM

KW

“ My deepest sympathy to all. Karen Wyngarden

karen wyngarden - December 06, 2024 at 07:42 AM