



## John Kempema

October 15, 1936 - August 6, 2017

John E. Kempema, 80, of Spirit Lake passed away on Sunday, August 6, 2017 at Avera Heart Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD.

A celebration of John's life will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 12, 2017 at the Schuchert-Lentz Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. There will be a visitation one hour prior to the service on Saturday at the funeral home. Military Funeral Honors will be performed by the American Legion Timpe Post #23 and the John W. Kidd VFW Post #4515.

John was born on October 15, 1936 in Ireton, IA to Ernest and Jennie (Harmsen) Kempema. He graduated from Luverne High School in Luverne, MN. After graduation he served his country in the US Army. After he returned home from the service he was united in marriage to Phyllis (Vande Brake) Kempema; to this union four children were born. John and his family made their life together in Orange City, Ia for several years and then Rock Valley, Ia for many years where all their children grew up. He later joined with his life companion Diane Reason. John worked for New York Life Insurance Company for several decades earning countless awards for his accomplishments until his retirement in 1998.

He was an avid golfer belonging to Emerald Hills Golf Club. He also enjoyed reading, watching sports on TV, attending his grandchildren's sporting events, traveling the country and wintering in Florida where he met and made countless friends along the way.

John is survived by his soul mate Diane Reason of Spirit Lake; son David J. Kempema and his child Tyler Kempema of Sioux City and his wife Gifty and his son Cole Ampomah Kempema of Ghana Africa; his son Steven J. Kempema and of Kansas City, MO and his son Travis Kempema of Sioux City; daughter Patrice Herke and her children AJ O'Brien of Minneapolis MN and Audrey Herke of Columbus, Ohio ; daughter Jennifer Kempema and her husband Nathan Thomas and their son Jonas of Kansas City, MO; sisters Eleanor Nyenhuis of Sioux Falls, SD; Jane (Lee) Koedam of Rock Valley, IA; Ruth (Larry) Klingenberg of Worthington, MN; sister in law Renzella Kempema of Sioux Falls, SD; Diane's daughters, Shelly (Brian) Langel and their children Nicholas and Morgan of Milford and Katherine (Joe) and their children Iziah and Xaxier of Des Moines.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister Hermina Kempema Boon and brother Richard Kempema.

John will be remembered fondly by his family and friends for his dry sense of humor, generosity, dependability, and unconditional love. He will be deeply missed.

# Tribute Wall

KC

“ We are sorry for your loss. We knew John from snowmobiling and family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

*Rod and Kaye Carlson*

**Kaye Carlson** - August 11, 2017 at 09:13 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of John Kempema.



August 11, 2017 at 08:53 AM

KH

“ Karla & Jeff Hanisch lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



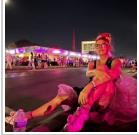
**Karla & Jeff Hanisch** - August 11, 2017 at 08:09 AM

DS

“ Don & Paula Vander Stelt lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



**Don & Paula Vander Stelt** - August 10, 2017 at 11:45 PM



“ *Deepest sympathy from Erin Griggs & Dan Jacobson.*



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**Erin Griggs** - August 10, 2017 at 11:10 PM

TG

“ *Twyla Garnmeister lit a candle in memory of John Kempema*



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**Twyla Garnmeister** - August 10, 2017 at 05:20 PM

SK

“ *Scott & Stephanie Koedam lit a candle in memory of John Kempema*



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**Scott & Stephanie Koedam** - August 09, 2017 at 11:47 AM



“ *Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of John Kempema.*



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August 09, 2017 at 10:20 AM

JN

“ *Jenice (Nyenhuis) Nowman lit a candle in memory of John Kempema*



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**Jenice (Nyenhuis) Nowman** - August 09, 2017 at 08:14 AM

JN

*With heartfelt sympathies, and fond memories of Uncle John!*

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**Jenice (Nyenhuis) Nowman** - August 09, 2017 at 08:19 AM

DT

“ *Although we have not lived at Emerald Hills very long, we loved Kempy, and we will miss him at coffee, couples' league, and parties at the club. Our sympathy especially to sweet Diane, their families, and all who appreciated this clever, kind, and special man.*

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**David and Patti Thayer** - August 08, 2017 at 09:03 PM

RK

“ *Ruth And Larry Klingenberg lit a candle in memory of John Kempema*



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**Ruth and Larry Klingenberg** - August 08, 2017 at 08:40 PM

JK

“ Jay And Doris Kragt lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



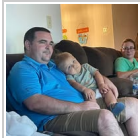
Jay and Doris Kragt - August 08, 2017 at 08:04 PM

BK

“ Brad Kuker lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



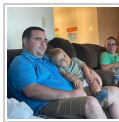
Brad Kuker - August 08, 2017 at 06:50 PM



“ Rosemary Dailey Davis lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



Rosemary Dailey Davis - August 08, 2017 at 05:06 PM



So sorry for your loss Diane. Thinking of your during this sad time.

Rosemary Dailey Davis - August 08, 2017 at 05:07 PM

KC

“ Karen & Mike, Ronnie & Bill, Linda & Bud & Cheryl purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of John Kempema.



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**Karen & Mike, Ronnie & Bill, Linda & Bud & Cheryl** - August 08, 2017 at 04:59 PM

DP

“ Deb Pavelko lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



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**Deb Pavelko** - August 08, 2017 at 04:08 PM

DL

“ Diane we are so sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Danny and Mary Little



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**Danny & Mary Little** - August 08, 2017 at 03:56 PM

RM

“ Richard And Trudy Mulder lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



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**Richard and Trudy Mulder** - August 08, 2017 at 02:19 PM

BM

“ *Bill And Jo Van Maanen lit a candle in memory of John Kempema*



Bill and Jo Van Maanen - August 08, 2017 at 11:28 AM

CA

“ *Dianne, we are so sorry for your loss. Cathy and Denny Worden*



CathyWorden - August 08, 2017 at 10:08 AM

 Sally Seleen Kness

“ *Sally Seleen Kness lit a candle in memory of John Kempema*



Sally Seleen Kness - August 08, 2017 at 07:10 AM

RN

“ *Deepest sympathies to to Diane and Johns family.*



Rhonda and David Nelson - August 07, 2017 at 10:22 PM

JW

“ Jerry & Kathy Welter lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



Jerry & Kathy Welter - August 07, 2017 at 10:19 PM

DR

“ Dan And Fawn Rogers lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



Dan and Fawn Rogers - August 07, 2017 at 09:53 PM

BS

“ Becky Savard lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



Becky Savard - August 07, 2017 at 02:08 PM

DK

“ Denise Kastner lit a candle in memory of John Kempema



Denise Kastner - August 07, 2017 at 01:38 PM

MM

“ *Mick And Sue Munsen lit a candle in memory of John Kempema*



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**Mick and Sue Munsen** - August 07, 2017 at 11:34 AM