



Kenyon A. Hapke

November 6, 1940 - December 19, 2012

Kenyon A. Hapke, 72, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 19, at his home in the presence of his loving family. He was born Nov. 6, 1940, in Libertyville, where he remained a resident all his life. He was a 1958 graduate of Libertyville High School, followed by the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago. Ken was a product development engineer for Onsrud Cutter in Libertyville, Bell & Howell, and the Ark-Les Division of Illinois Tool Works in New Berlin, Wis. He enjoyed golf, motorcycles, woodworking and tinkering with machinery, such as cars and tractors, and had over 30 patents. Surviving are his wife, Aileen Hapke; two children, Jeff (Shelly) Hapke of Monument, Colo. and Donna (Matt) Allen of Naperville; and four grandchildren, Hannah and Colin Hapke, and Mark and Greg Allen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Alex and June Hapke. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until the time of services at 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22, at the Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. (Route 176), Libertyville. Interment will follow in Lakeside Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions to the American Cancer Society would be appreciated. For information, 847-362-3009. Visit and sign the guestbook, www.burnettdane.com.

Tribute Wall

AK

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss.

Amy and Chris Kazor - April 27, 2018 at 06:44 AM

GB

“ Our folks were friends and so were we. Though we were in different areas we always remained friends. I cherish all the memories.

Gary & Martha Bacon - April 27, 2018 at 06:44 AM

DK

“ Aileen, Jeff and Donna and families,
Our deepest sympathy to all of you. You are in our thoughts and prayers. You will always be friends.

Don and Rose Ann Kraemer - April 27, 2018 at 06:44 AM

MB

“ Ken was a fantastic engineer, and a great man. He will be deeply missed here at ITW Ark-les. My sincere sympathies for all of his family for their great loss.

Mark Brewer - April 27, 2018 at 06:44 AM

JO

“ Ken was my mentor, my advocate, my friend, and the greatest boss I have ever worked with. He was a brilliant engineer. His designs, his contributions and his legacy will live on here at ITW Ark-Les. I had the privilege to work with Ken for eight years. Thank you Ken! My heart-felt deepest sympathies go out to his wife Aileen, his son Jeff, his daughter Donna, and all his family. May God bless you all.
Jon Olson, Design Engineer, ITW Ark-Les

Jon Olson - April 27, 2018 at 06:44 AM

DR

“ *Ken is missed by all of us who worked with him.*

Dan Ramthun - April 27, 2018 at 06:44 AM

JB

“ *Ken and I worked together for many years at Ark-Les. He was extremely talented, and is probably the most creative person that I've ever worked with. We spent a lot of time travelling together, mostly to visit our customers. I enjoyed that time very much; he was a lot of fun to hang out with. Please accept my deepest sympathy and prayers.*

Joel Bragg - April 27, 2018 at 06:44 AM

KE

“ I began working with Ken on patents in 1996 on an invention intended for the up-and-coming appliance market in China. I was new to this field and he helped keep me out of technical trouble with Spencer Schantz, the CEO of then U.S. Controls Corp, who personally reviewed all patent applications. I remember visiting once and finding that Ken had purchased whistles and flutes from maybe half a dozen stores to experiment with using the dryer airflow as a sort of Aeolian harp to replace the harsh buzzer. My contribution was the word Aeolian. In another case, Ken help me convince the patent office that blowing air downward through a dishwasher to dry dishes is much better than blowing the air upward (it is!). Working with Ken was like a class in design with an engaging instructor. He would walk me through a design and then I would pick out some odd feature and ask "and why did you do this here?" and there would be a insightful answer that revealed a lot of the sophistication behind modern industrial design. Probably if I had met Ken earlier I would've stuck with engineering, but as it is he pulled me back into it and encouraged me on some of my own projects. I will miss his enthusiasm, support, and humor.

Keith - April 27, 2018 at 06:44 AM

DH

“ Dear Hapke Family,
My condolences to you all at the loss of Mr Hapke. May your memories comfort you.
Deborah Reitz

Deborah (Reitz) Harwell - April 27, 2018 at 06:44 AM