



## Kenneth Waldner

December 23, 2012 - December 16, 2012

Ken was born in Rawlins, WY on 12/23/1964 to Verne and Emma. He was the third of four children. He was a fun-loving and caring child. He lived in Rawlins until he was 5, when in 1970, the family moved to Wamsutter. In 1973, a spark was ignited in Ken, when his Dad founded Wamsutter Conoco Service, Inc. Ken worked almost every day at the station after school. One day the Bairoil Basketball coach stopped in the Conoco before a Wamsutter vs Bairoil Basketball game and saw Ken changing the oil on a school bus. The Coach asked Ken, "Are you not playing tonight?" Wishful thinking on the coach's part, Ken's response was, "No, I'll be there" and he lead his team to victory. At a young age, he worked hard, played hard and lived life to the absolute fullest. In 1994, Ken and Gregg took over the reins of the Conoco and grew it from a mom-and-pop gas station to large a scale convenience store, mechanic shop, and towing and recovery service station. Ken attended Northwest Community College in Powell, WY from 1983 to 1986, then he graduated with a Degree in Welding Engineering from Arizona State University in Phoenix, AZ in 1989. Ken's only son was born on April 4, 1992, Thomas Van Smith. Ken was very proud of Thomas who is attending the University of Wyoming in pursuit of a Petroleum Engineering degree. Ken served the community of Wamsutter by serving on Town Council and as Mayor for more than 10 years. He was instrumental in getting the Grocery Store, Medical Center and Day Care up and running. On September 14, 2000 he married his soulmate, Hope Jeanneret. Hope and Ken have traveled and enjoyed photographing wildlife,

arrowhead hunting, camping, fishing and hunting. In 2010, Ken won a prize from the National Park Service for photographing a wild horse mother and colt with the backdrop of the Red Dessert. The prize was a trip to any National Park in the United States. He and Hope visited Arcadia National Park in Bar Harbor, ME. In 2008 Ken was award the NAPA ASE Master Automotive Technician of the Year for the Rocky Mountain Region. Ken was always generous to those in need, at our recent Staff Christmas party, he gave everyone a \$100 bill and instructed, " Give this to someone less fortunate then you." When asked recently "What is left on your bucket list?" his reply was simply, "I don't have anything else left to do." Ken was a great brother to all, as we are all brothers in Christ. Ken was a spectacular business man. He was caring and loving. A husband, father, friend, and mentor to everyone he met. On December 7, 2011 Ken was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. At no point did he give up the fight, but on December 16, 2012 our Lord decided he had fought long and hard enough and it was time for him to come home and finally feel no more pain. He was loved by many and he will be missed and mourned greatly. Ken was preceded in death by; Grandparents Russell E. DeLambert, Irene DeLambert, Jake Waldner, Anna Waldner; Uncle Marvin Waldner; and cousins Jamie and Barbara Valdez. Ken is survived by his wife Hope, and his son, Thomas Smith, and many family and friends. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, December 22, 2012, 1:00 p.m at Desert School, Wamsutter, Wyoming. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the charity of your choice or Poudre Valley Hospital Foundation c/o Bohlander Funeral Chapel, 121 W. Olive St., Fort Collins, CO 80524.

# Tribute Wall

AW

“ Ken inspired such great generosity!

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**Anna Waser** - May 27, 2013 at 12:00 AM

SG

“ Gregg, I was so sorry to read of your loss of Ken in the Rawlins Daily Times. Having lost Mike a short time back, I understand your grief. I know Mike would want to extend his sympathy. He would want you to know you and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. God Bless!!! Susie Gregor

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**Susie Gregor** - January 04, 2013 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ Dear Verne and Emma and family, I am very sorry to learn of Ken's passing and offer you my most heartfelt condolences. It has been many years since I have seen any of you but have many fond and warm memories of you and your family and remember Ken when he was very young. When I get back to Wyoming sometime I'll be sure to stop by and say hello. My mother who is 92 is in Texas now so I don't get to Wyoming much, but hope to do so. My thoughts and prayers are with you. In great sorrow, Bill Johnston

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**Bill Johnston** - January 03, 2013 at 12:00 AM

VA

“ Sorry to hear on the passing of Ken, Tommy knew him for the last year here in Wamsutter. He found him to be very friendly and helpful to everyone. Our condolences, Tommy and Vera VanPool

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**VanPool** - December 28, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DP

“ Dear Emma and Family, I was so sorry to hear about Ken's illness and passing. You're in my prayers dear friend. With sincere sympathy. Dorothy Burke Plunkett

Dorothy Plunkett - December 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ Emma & Vern...I am so sad to hear of the passing of your son, Ken. Pat and I will remember you and Hope and Thomas in our prayers.

dean diehl - December 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Emma, We are very sorry to hear of the loss of your son. He sounds like he did wonderful things and was loved by many people during his too short life. Al & Le Ann

Alvo & Le Ann Moore - December 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Emma & Family, Having lost my oldest son in March, my heart is filled with grief for all of you. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with you. Wherever our boys are, there is no more pain or sorrow. God Bless, Karen A.

Karen Alameda Allison - December 24, 2012 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Emmie & Verne, I'm so sorry to hear about your son, Ken. I'm not sure if I ever met him but I just want you to know that you are still special people to me and my love and prayers are with you. I hope I get to see you again. Love, Kay

Kay Harper Fulton - December 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TV

“ Our thoughts and prayers are will be with the Waldner family. former Wamsutter residents

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**Tony Vasquez** - December 23, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Hope and family ,we were very saddened To hear of kens loss. Our hearts go out to You. We know how hard it can be. We have Terrible colds and didn't want to share them Today but were there in thought love and prayers to all of you. We are so sorry. Kevin & Rhonda Graham and girls

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**Rhonda graham** - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

BS

“ Hope, Thomas, and Family: Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Although we didn't get the opportunity to know Ken that well; Thomas we know you carry so many of his fine qualities. What a tremendous life and example he was to all of us!

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**Bill, Sharon, Chip, Kyle Smith** - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ Waldners, We are so saddened to hear about Ken. Heaven has gained a good soul. May all your memories sustain all of you. Know many are thinking of you all.

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**Clint & Michele Carlton** - December 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ Hope, Thomas, Verne, Emmie, Russell, Troy, and Gary, Word travelled fast among the Olivas of Ken's passing. And though we know that he had been suffering and give thanks to God that he no longer is, our sorrow over this loss is great. Ken was a friend and classmate, and so much more. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Ken died on the 10th anniversary of our Dad's death. One more thing for the Olivas and the Waldners to share in our 40 year history of knowing each other. God bless you all and bring you consolation. Mary Olivas and Richard Olivas

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**Richard Olivas** - December 21, 2012 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ Thomas & family, We are saddened by your loss and want you to know that we care about you. You are in our thoughts and prayers. May God bless you in the days ahead, Annette, Bill, Heather, and Hunter Bregar

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**Annette Bregar** - December 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DH

“ Hope, our hearts go out to you & Thomas with prayers of returned joy & peace abounding. Blessings & love to you always

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**Dad & Heather** - December 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ Emma and family, We were deeply saddened to hear of your son's death. Please know he and all of your family are in our prayers.

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**Jack and Mary Adams** - December 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ *The Wyoming Professional Towing Association with heavy heart would like to give its condolences to the family of Ken Waldner.*

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**Sheridan Norberg** - December 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM

TJ

“ *Hope, I'm very sorry for your loss. I wish I could be at the funeral but I have to be out of town. Tammy*

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**Tammy Jurgens** - December 20, 2012 at 12:00 AM