



J. Kenneth Bender

May 5, 1927 - January 22, 2020

J. Kenneth Bender, 92, formerly of Salunga, passed away on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at Brethren Village Retirement Community. Born in Salunga, he was the son of the late John N. and Irene (Stehman) Bender. Kenneth was the husband of the late Betty (Miller) Bender who passed away on February 17 2004.

Ken proudly served in the United States Navy and was a graduate of Hempfield High School class of 1945. He purchased Bender's Store from his father in 1952 and served the public faithfully six days a week until he sold the business in 1982. Ken was a pillar in the Salunga community serving as a volunteer in the Fire Company and the Community Committee. He was a charter member of Hempfield United Methodist Church.

Ken is survived by three daughters, Joanne Bender of Lancaster, Dawn Gerlach, wife of James of Lititz and Jeannine Bender of Arlington, VA; two grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two sisters, Virginia Emich and Suzanne Nash.

A memorial service honoring Ken's life will be held at Hempfield United Methodist Church, 3050 Marietta Ave, Lancaster on Friday, January 31, 2020 at 11 AM. Family and friends will be received at the church following the service. Interment will be private at Salunga Brethren Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice and Community Care.

Tribute Wall

MW

“ I would like extend my sincerest condolences to Ken Bender's family. I grew up in the Salunga/Landisville community during the 1960's. My mother did her grocery shopping at Bender's Store and I accompanied her on many of those trips. We would often see Ken working the deli counter and he always had a smile on his face. He would always ask deli customers: "and what else?", hoping to increase the size of their order. I also remember him as a kind and generous businessman in our community. One example of that was how every summer, you could count on the huge complimentary barrel of refreshing Bender's ice tea being available to attendees of the Salunga Community Picnic. Thank you for the great memories, Ken.

Mark Weaver - March 01, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Thank you Ken for all the kindness you shared when Bob and I lived beside your Restaurant. You and your family made us feel welcome to the area. Loved the store and the great food!! Welcome to Heaven!! With love, ~Cheri High

Cheri - January 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ Ken was my neighbor. I had two brothers that lived in Salunga at one time over the years. Oliver (Hump) and Elmer (Bud-Father Bud) I think Eugene came for breakfast often (Young Bud). This is a time of life that we all must deal with. Since God is in charge we never know when that will be. My wife died 2 years ago and I still grieve her loss. I believe from the few times Ken and I had spoken that he had a GREAT life. When God grants that to us we are so grateful. Hopefully those in the family will do their best to remember all the GOOD time that Ken brought into their lives. God Grant you the strength you need to continue to remember those time. GOD'S BLESSING Roy Schroll Brethren Village.

Roy C. Schroll Jr. - January 27, 2020 at 12:00 AM

SJ

“ Sincere condolences to Ken's family. My mother, Evelyn Wenger Clark grew up in Dillerville and then the family moved to Chiques. Raymond Wenger (Wenger's Garage) was her brother. She was one year older. I spend some time in Salunga with family, visiting relatives, and Mom and Dad would go to Bender's Store growing up. Ken always talked to us and was so friendly. GREAT man!

Samuel W. Clark - Mount Joy - January 26, 2020 at 12:00 AM