



Ray Alan Hartsook

January 10, 1959 - May 10, 2024

Ray A. Hartsook was born January 10, 1959, in Creston, Iowa to Lyle M. and Betty M. (Johnson) Hartsook. Ray grew up on the family farm near Nevinville, Iowa, and attended grade school in Richland, Iowa and graduated from Orient-Macksburg High School in 1977. A few years after high school, Ray earned his Associate Degree in Agriculture from the Des Moines Area Community College. Growing up, Ray was active in FFA, and was on the football, basketball, baseball, and track teams at school. He helped with the family farm and country store that the family owned. He also had a fascination with cars and driving fast.

Although married once before, Ray married the love of his life, Karen Hedges on January 11, 2002, in Winterset, Iowa. They made their home in Desoto and Cumberland, Iowa. Karen preceded Ray in death, and Ray moved to Fremont, Nebraska.

Ray held several jobs throughout his life. He worked at the Bondurant Elevator and was an over the road truck driver for Casey's for many years, as well as working at the Spring Factory in Adel, driving truck for G&H motor freight, working at the Massena, IA elevator, and retiring from 3M in Valley, NE. Ray was a very good dancer and golfer, but most of all, he loved deer hunting. He surrounded himself with deer artwork, many times had deer jerky on hand, and when he wasn't hunting them, he was content to drive the

country roads to try to spot them.

Ray was a witty man who had a big and tender heart. He had a strong work ethic, refusing to miss a day of work. He was a good cook and was a master with the grill. He listened to rock-n-roll music or old country, and loved western movies, especially John Wayne, as well as movies like, "Secondhand Lions" or "Days of Thunder". He was a huge fan of Iowa State sports and became a Kansas City Chiefs fan while watching Patrick Mahomes. He disliked it when something wasn't put back in its proper place, and he might've told you he was, "doing it old school." Ray will be remembered for his laughter and his unwavering work ethic.

Ray passed away on Friday, May 10, 2024, at his home in Fremont, Nebraska at the age of 65 years and 5 months. He was preceded in death by his wife Karen, parents Lyle and Betty, and his brother Jim Hartsook. Ray is survived by his sisters and brothers-in-law Janet and Carl Ratcliff of Seymour, MO and Marilyn and Gene Deardorff of Yale, Iowa, brother Dale Hartsook of Colorado Springs, CO, and nieces and nephews: Molly and John Ratcliff, Ryan & Kirby Deardorff, Teri & Brian Morgan, Austin and Blake Hartsook, and Brooke Hartsook, Cole Hartsook, Ashley Stewart.

At Ray's request, no services will be held. Condolences can be mailed to Ray's siblings or to Reichmuth Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

PJ

“ Ray was always thinking about others. At a class reunion in Macksburg, we enjoyed watching him dance. Ray always wanted the best for us. Love you Ray. Keith and Patty Jones

Patty Jones - May 14, 2024 at 05:30 PM

GH

“ Cousin Ray will be missed by many. We spent a lot of time Nevin Hartsook's at the farm and in town at the store. My first horse came from there and brought my first shotgun from the store.

Gary Hartsook - May 14, 2024 at 03:15 PM

PJ

“ Ol' Sugar Ray
Always a good time when around cousin Ray. There must have been a class at OM on how to flirt with old ladies cause Ray was sure good at it. Swabe will probably greet Ray at the gates with a welcome "Bad Weed"

Paul Johnson - May 14, 2024 at 01:50 PM

EF

“ Janet & family! Ray was always very nice to me in school! I will always remember him & all the family! So sorry for your loss! The Hartsook family was a big part of my growing up! Elizabeth Vaughan Faris

Elizabeth Vaughan Faris - May 13, 2024 at 09:58 PM

CC

I'm sorry for your loss! He was a good kid in school when I was the janitor!

Claudia Capps - May 14, 2024 at 12:44 PM

KA

“ Ray and Karen lived at the top of the hill from our parents, Bob and Virginia Rogers in Cumberland. After Karen's passing, he stayed there and became the guardian and care giver to my parents/father/Ruth Denham in the neighborhood. He became my "big brother" and talked me through some tough times with the passing of both my parents and my brother. We spoke fairly often after his move to Fremont - keeping up on Carl's health and Janet's life. He called me with the last 10 days, but left no message and didn't return the call - now I am crushed! My sincerest sympathies to his family - we loved him as family and we are blessed to have had him in our lives and he will be truly missed. Our sympathies and love! Kenney and Dee Harrison.

Kenney and - May 13, 2024 at 09:09 PM

JD

I did not know Ray, myself but offer my sympathies and condolences to Janet Ratcliff and her husband Carl as well as to Molly and John. It's always hard to lose a family member and so young yet. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

joe and cyndi DeMike - May 13, 2024 at 09:36 PM

KT

Ray was much younger than I but I so remember the Hartsook family, especially Janet and Carl. I know Ray will be truly missed. May your great memories of him and faith in the Lord help you through your grieving.
Kay Tracy.

Kay Tracy - May 14, 2024 at 11:33 AM

DD

We would appreciate it if Janet Ratcliff could reach out to us at harisond@midlands.net We want to personally thank them for the care that was given our parents and to remember Ray properly with them.
Thank you.

Dee Harrison (Bob Rogers' daughter) - May 22, 2024 at 09:58 AM