

In Loving Memory
Ken Schmierer

Date of Birth
June 2, 1947

Date of Death
December 9, 2025

Memorial Service

1:00 P.M. Saturday, May 23, 2026

Presbyterian United Methodist Church
Ellendale, North Dakota

Officiating: Pastor Becca Hafner
Pianist: Sharon Langley

Congregational Singing

“Amazing Grace”
“How Great Thou Art”
“It Is Well with My Soul”

Burial

Ellendale City Cemetery
Ellendale, North Dakota

Arrangements by

Hoven Funeral Chapel
Ellendale, North Dakota



*It's difficult when someone
Who is loved cannot be there,
But memories that are made and shared
Will keep a loved one near.
And God, with loving wisdom,
Will be there to guide us through;
He'll help us meet tomorrow
And He'll give us strength anew.*

Ken Schmierer, 78, of Ellendale, ND, passed away on December 9, 2025 in Aberdeen, SD at Mother Joseph Manor. Born June 22, 1947, in Pittsburgh, PA, Ken moved to Ellendale as an infant and graduated from Ellendale High School and Northern State University.

He spent 25 years with Payless Shoe Source, helping the company grow from 500 to over 5,000 stores, and later served as Vice President at Stored Value Systems in El Paso, TX. After retiring to Ellendale in 2004, Ken devoted himself to community service, founding the Ellendale Walk of Fame and serving on boards for the local arts council, Opera House, and Prince of Peace. He was active in promoting arts, tourism, and historical preservation.

Ken loved music—favorites included Bob Dylan and John Prine, art, travel, and sports—especially the Kansas Jayhawks. He enjoyed good food, wine, and exploring science topics. Known for his compassion, Ken cared deeply for Ellendale's stray cats, ensuring many found homes.

He is survived by sisters Pam Schmierer of St. Paul, MN, and June Salwei of Cheyenne, WY, along with niece Eliza Krall and nephews Jeff Salwei, Nathan Cage, Adrian Young and Jason Grote. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lillian and Walt; siblings Alan and Cheryl; and his beloved cat, Frank.



In Memoriam