

Kenneth James Ryan of Alexandria passed away unexpectedly on July 28th while piloting his plane in LaGrand Township, rural Alexandria.

Born July 18, 1954 to Jim and Elaine Ryan, Ken grew up in Lansing, IA, on the banks of the Mississippi River. He received a BS in chemistry from Loras College and his MD from the University of Iowa Medical School. He married Heidi Brown in 1984, and the couple lived together in Iowa City before moving to Alexandria in 1991, where they raised two children.

Ken was a lifelong learner and will be remembered for his many talents and interests. He worked as a river barge deckhand, Air Force computer technician, physician, and manufacturing automation consultant; most recently he was an Anatomy and Physiology instructor at Alexandria Technical and Community College, where he could share his love of learning and passion for teaching.

Beyond his professional life, Ken enjoyed many hobbies, including flying, reading, woodworking, skydiving, scuba diving, gardening, and plane restoration. He had a special appreciation for natural beauty and enjoyed frequent hikes and runs in Minnesota parks. Ken served the Alexandria community for a number of years on the City Planning Commission and volunteered regularly at Butterfly Hill Nature Preschool where he could reach a new generation of students.

Ken will be greatly missed and remembered by his wife and best friend of 34 years, Heidi, daughter Katherine, son Colin, his siblings, cousins, and extended family, and by his many friends, including those at the Alexandria United Methodist Church, Alexandria EAA, Butterfly Hill Nature Preschool, City Hall, and Alexandria Community and Technical College.

Remembering the Life Of



Kenneth James Ryan

1954 - 2018

*He goes free of the earth.
The sun of his last day sets
clear in the sweetness of his liberty.*

*The earth recovers from his dying,
the hallow of his life remaining
In all his death leaves.*

*Radiances know him.
Grown lighter than breath, he is
set free in our remembering. Grown
brighter than vision, he goes dark
into the life of the hill
that holds his peace.*

*He's hidden among all that is,
and cannot be lost.*

Wendell Berry

Remembering the Life of
Kenneth “Ken” Ryan

July 18, 1954 ☩ July 28, 2018

Memorial Service

United Methodist Church
Alexandria, Minnesota
Saturday, August 4, 2018
10:00 AM

Officiant

Reverend Gary Taylor

Organist

Gale Maxwell

We are grateful to the many diverse communities
who loved Ken and have offered so much support
to our family. Thank you.

Heidi, Katherine & Colin

Arrangements By

Anderson Funeral Home
Alexandria, Minnesota