



## Kenneth L. VanderLugt

September 16, 1949 - August 29, 2024

Kenneth L. VanderLugt, age 74, of Merrillville passed away from this life into the next on August 29, 2024. He was preceded in death by his parents- Gerrit and Nellie VanderLugt; son- Christopher VanderLugt, Ken is survived by his children- Kerrie VanderLugt, Charity (Jerry) Lyda; grandchildren- Jerry Lyda, Anna VanderLugt, Christa VanderLugt, Hailey Lyda, as well as his 3 beloved great grandchildren; siblings- Nelson VanderLugt, Bob Bakker, Joyce VanderLugt; many loving nieces and nephews.

Ken was born in 1949 and raised in Grand Rapid, MI and was a graduate of Calvin College. He worked for Waldenbook store chain for 10 years before opening his own independent bookstore, the Remarkable Bookshop in Merrillville in 1979. He operated his store without employees, often saying he didn't want to have a boss and did not want to be the boss of anyone. The store closed in 2019, 40 years to the day after its opening. He was known locally as "Mr. Remarkable" or just "Bookman." He often said the three best decisions of his life were opening his own bookstore in 1979, caring for his son Christopher in his home from 1999 to 2015, and becoming Catholic in 2019.

Ken was a voracious and eclectic reader and lover of classical music. For over 20 years he sang with the NWI Symphony Chorus as well as several local choirs. In 2019, Ken became a member of Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Merrillville. Donations may be made to Catholic Charities and Cross Catholic Outreach.

Visitation will take place Wednesday, September 11, 2024, from 4-6 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 10 a.m. directly at Our Lady of Consolation Church, 8303 Taft St, Merrillville, IN. [www.burnsfuneral.com](http://www.burnsfuneral.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **11**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **12**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Our Lady of Consolation  
8303 Taft St.  
Merrillville, IN 46410

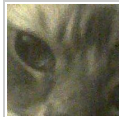
# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Hope Hanford - September 11, 2024 at 08:54 PM



*Super Bowl party with Ken's food Bank friends*

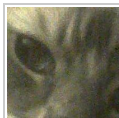
Hope Hanford - September 11, 2024 at 08:56 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Hope Hanford - September 11, 2024 at 08:45 PM



*Ken volunteered every weekend and more at The Foodbank of Northwest Indiana. We already miss you so much!*

Hope Hanford - September 11, 2024 at 08:51 PM

PA

“ Patricia A. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth L. VanderLugt.

Patricia A. - September 11, 2024 at 05:00 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Let's read a used book in 'Mr. Remarkable's' honor.



Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - September 11, 2024 at 10:24 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Ken’s passing. When I turned 16 and could work, I saved my money to buy books at his bookstore. From 1980 until it closed I bought and traded with Ken. He was always ready with a suggestion on what I might enjoy reading and was always fair with his pricing and credit system. What you saw with Ken was what you got. May he rest in peace.

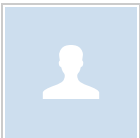


Teri Kopil - September 11, 2024 at 12:58 AM



“ I always took my allowance and paper route money to buy baseball and football cards at his shop. Ken always treated me like I was his only customer, even when the shop was busy.

Ted Phillips - September 10, 2024 at 10:19 PM



“ Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. VanderLugt.



September 10, 2024 at 04:32 PM

SH

“ Kurt and his shop were a great blessing to my family. May he rest in peace.

Sue Hasara - September 10, 2024 at 11:01 AM

OB

“ O'Gara & Wilson Booksellers purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Kenneth L. VanderLugt.



O'Gara & Wilson Booksellers - September 10, 2024 at 10:36 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Kenneth L. VanderLugt.



September 09, 2024 at 03:00 PM

YF

“ Your Food Bank Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kenneth L. VanderLugt.



Your Food Bank Family - September 05, 2024 at 03:41 PM

WZ

“ I first met Canada's bookstore many years ago little did I know that he would become my best buddy we talk about our favorite authors but also about religion and faith for the last few years we met every Wednesday at a restaurant and listen to one another's problems fortunately we were both good listeners Ken is the kindest and most generous person I've ever met he would listen to my problems and I would listen to his. Isn't it funny that it's easier to give someone else advice than to figure out our own problems I told Ken that he saved me a lot of money on on psychiatrist fees. We couldn't it's odd that we at our age we could not figure out women and the way their minds work we agreed that they're just not logical but also agreed that women are smarter than men I would have been better off learning that many many years ago ha. I miss Ken very much and pray for him and his family Dr Bill zeto

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**William Zato** - September 05, 2024 at 11:39 AM

SJ

“ Sandra C Johnson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kenneth L. VanderLugt.

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**Sandra C Johnson** - September 03, 2024 at 06:23 PM