


Schroeder Memorial Chapel, Inc.

Kenneth Berg

(December 24, 1913 - October 1, 2009)

 Kenneth Berg, age 95, of Marshalltown and formerly of Boone, passed away at the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown.



Funeral services are Monday, October 5, 2009, at 11:00 a.m. at Schroeder Memorial Chapel at Sixth and Marshall where Rev. Steve Brodersen will officiate.

Following the service, his body will be cremated and burial of his cremains will be at a later date.

Friends may call at the funeral chapel on Sunday from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m. where the family will be present from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Visitation continues Monday from 8:00 a.m. until servicetime.

Kenneth Myron Berg was born in Callender, Iowa, on December 24, 1913, to Albert and Clara Berg. After the death of his mother, young Kenny went to live with his aunt and uncle, Hazel and Gilbert Dolder, staying with them until he graduated from Callender High School in 1932.

Sports was a huge part of his life. In 1931, when the boy's baseball team at Callender High was forced to trade the hardball for the softball because of economic hardship, Kenny adapted perfectly. This was the beginning of a 10-year career that took him to national softball tournaments all over the country.

In 1934, the Boone Dairy, was so impressed with Kenny, they offered him a job and the opportunity to play for their ball team. That year, he pitched 30 games for Boone and went 28-2 and made it to the national tournament in Chicago, Illinois. The team ended up losing in the consolation finals.

When he started pitching the distance to home plate was 35 feet. He had a pretty good fastball and from that distance he averaged 14 strikeouts a game. It must have taken a pretty gutsy hitter to stand against Kenny in those days. Softball traveling more than 90 miles per hour is not only hard to hit but darn right dangerous. Luckily, he had good control.

By the time he enlisted in the Navy in 1942, he'd compiled a record of 219 wins and just 21 losses with 21 no-hit games, that not counting his 24-0 record as a high school pitcher.

In 1993, almost 50 years after he pitched his last fast pitch game, he was inducted into the Iowa Softball Hall of Fame at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

It was in Boone that he met his future wife, Marimae Wilson from Fraser. They married in 1935.

After World War II, Kenny returned to Boone and worked for the Curtis Candy Company of Marshalltown.

In 1948, Kenny was awarded by Governor Robert Blue the State of Iowa Life Saving Certificate for rescuing a small neighbor girl, from an unused well.

Kenny traveled through the 1950's and 1960's working for the Research Institute of America, Des Moines Life and Casualty and the Gold Bond Stamp Company.

In 1973, his wife of 34 years passed suddenly. Devastated, he began doing community service work.

He was a life time member of the Boone American Legion #56 achieving the position of post commander. While at the Legion, he spent countless hours working Bingo nights and was famous for his chef duties in the kitchen cooking rib eye steaks for the monthly men's stag.

Kenny was instrumental in setting up an American Legion scholarship fund for local students for DMACC College in Boone. Kenny was also there for the bell ringing at Christmas, selling Poppies for disabled veterans, and for representing the Legion at local funerals.

He was an original member of the Boone Golf and Country Club. His membership stretched for over 50 years. He sat on the Board in the 1980's and 1990's.

Kenny had three hole's in one, all achieved over the age of 72.

On October 4, 1997, he married Mary Hanfeld of Marshalltown. What a wonderful way to spend the remaining years of his life. They were active and happy, living in both Boone and Marshalltown.

In 2005, Kenny fell, breaking his hip and in 2007, fell again breaking his leg. Eventually his health caused him to enter the Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown. Mary had given over 30 years of service as the Administrative Assistant for the Commandant at this very home. She was now back again as the loving companion and caregiver until the day he died.

Our love for him remains forever in our hearts!

He leaves his wife Mary Hanfeld Berg of Marshalltown; daughter Jody Keller and husband Ron of Laguna Niguel, Ca.; daughter Julie Fitzpatrick and husband Dave of Chehalis, Wa.; grandchildren Chris Johnson, Cole Fitzpatrick, Scott Keller, Josh Keller, and Melissa Nocon; and eight great grandchildren.

Memorials may be given to the family to be used at their discretion.

[Back](#)