



## Kenneth Arthur Matson

September 29, 1926 - October 1, 2015

Our father and friend Kenneth Arthur Matson went to be with God on Thursday, October 1, 2015, at the age of 89.

Kenneth Arthur Matson was born on September 29, 1926, to Andrew and Andrine (Amlund) Matson, in Canton, South Dakota. The family soon moved to Fargo, North Dakota briefly, and then to Valley City, North Dakota in 1929, where Kenneth's father worked as a pressman for the Valley City Times-Record. He attended College High and graduated from there. He served in the United States Navy near the end of WWII on a minesweeper in the southern Pacific. He returned to North Dakota and attended UND and received a degree in Journalism in 1950.

On August 14, 1949, he was united in marriage to his wife of the next 58 years, Joanne Olson. Together they raised five children, Jeff, Kristi, Mark, Monte and Steve.

In 1953, Ken established and locally ran Ken Matson Studio of Photography for over 62 years. In 1975, Kenneth received his Masters in Photography. He garnered many awards for his portraits having been displayed at North Dakota Professional Photographer's conventions, as well as four of his prints having been displayed in the National Loan Collection. He also taught photography classes at VCSU. He enjoyed spending time taking scenic pictures and always had his camera with him

Ken was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church, American Legion, VFW, and a former member of Kiwanis. He had also been a member of the drum

and bugle corps and enjoyed listening to good music. He also liked to volunteer at the Barnes County Museum.

He was preceded in death by his parents, wife, a son, Monte, a brother, Robert Matson and a sister, Jeannie Meister.

Kenneth is survived by sons, Jeffrey and Mark, both of Valley City, Steve of Minneapolis; a daughter, Kristi (Roger) Youle, Sanborn, North Dakota; grandchildren Natasha Matson, Valley City, Aron (Serena) Henke, Walcott, North Dakota and Michael Matson, Independence, Missouri. Four great grandchildren, Terrance, Dylan, Aurora and Taylor also survive.

The memorial service for Kenneth will be 2 pm Wednesday, October 7, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Valley City.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook for Kenneth may be found at [www.oliver-nathanchapel.com](http://www.oliver-nathanchapel.com)

# Tribute Wall

VJ

“ Kris, My heart goes out to you and your brothers during this sad time in your lives. Growing up in Valley City in the mid 1960's was a fun time - especially at the Matson house! I will always remember going with you Kristi to ride your horse "Sugar Boy". Two of my favorite photos that your dad took hung in the office of the studio...one was of the Walking Bridge going over to the College...and the other was of Monte when he was a toddler, standing in the big white leather military Bunny Boots. Kris, my thoughts are with you, Jeff, Mark and Steve...as well Monte, Joanne and Ken. Your dad was lucky to live such a long successful life and to have raised such a great family! Love to you all ~ Vickie

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**Vickie Berg Jackson** - October 20, 2015 at 03:55 PM

SW

“ Ken Matson Studios was where our family had church and high school photos taken. He had a good eye through the camera lense and worked efficiently to capture the perfect pose. A very patient man, too. Joanne always kept the upstairs work area running smoothly. My thoughts and prayers are with the Matson Family as God enfolds His Loving Arms around Ken.

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**Shelley Williamson** - October 09, 2015 at 08:30 AM

KY

Thank you for sharing your memory.

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**Kris Matson Youle** - October 14, 2015 at 12:18 PM

CJ

“ Jeff and family,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you at the loss of your father.  
Your Dad took our wedding pictures. I remember him having such  
great attention to detail! I had the privilege of knowing both of your  
parents. They were such kind, gentle people. You have a great  
heritage. Candace Johnson

Candace Johnson - October 08, 2015 at 09:13 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Kenneth Arthur Matson.



October 07, 2015 at 10:56 AM

AN

“ Ken and Joann were very good friends to me,  
When they seen you it was always HELLO to  
you! Ken took my picture the summer of 1966  
as my Father want one of me as he had all  
the other girls and son, So Joanne got it all  
going and Ken took the picture. The only 8x10 I have that I have.  
Thankful for the picture.  
Arlene Nelson



Arlene Nelson - October 06, 2015 at 08:46 PM

KY

thank you for caring and sharing, Arlene

Kris Matson Youle - October 14, 2015 at 12:19 PM

CK

“ *Steve and family*

*I am so sorry for your loss. Matson studios is one of my earliest memories of Valley City. I remember my folks walking us all in there as children to have a family portrait taken. I was afraid of the unknown space, that didn't last long. Your parents made me feel like I was a welcome part of their family. Your father touched many lives in Valley City throughout his life, he will be remembered well.*

*Cara (Anderson) Kamstra  
Valley City, ND*

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**Cara Kamstra** - October 06, 2015 at 07:08 AM

KY

*Thank you for caring and sharing this, Cara*

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**Kris Matson Youle** - October 14, 2015 at 12:21 PM

PH

“ *Ken took a lot of pictures of our family. more importantly, He and Jo always welcomed my brothers who were friends of the Matson crew. My sympathies to the family*

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**paula Twamley Heinze** - October 05, 2015 at 07:48 PM

KY

*Thank you, Paula! We are sorry for the loss of your mother as well.*

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**Kris Matson Youle** - October 14, 2015 at 12:22 PM

GR

“ In the last 1960's I had the opportunity to work for Ken doing accounts receivable and payable work for the photo studio. Although I was a short time and long ago, I consider the start of a long and rewarding career as a business teacher and now as the Chief Financial Officer for North Dakota United. I will also consider him my first "business mentor." He was such a giving and caring person.

Gary D. Rath, CFO  
North Dakota United  
Bismarck, ND

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**Gary Rath** - October 05, 2015 at 03:15 PM

KY

Thank you for sharing this, Gary. That is quite a story!

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**Kris Matson Youle** - October 14, 2015 at 12:23 PM

LD

“ My Dad, Clair Fischer, and Kenny were best friends before he died. Kenny took his picture of him as a gift to my Mom right before Dad died. I am so great full for that photo! That is the only true memory I had of my Dad. It has stayed with me for a lifetime. God Bless you Kenny!



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**Linda Fischer Dvorak** - October 04, 2015 at 02:11 PM

KY

Thank you, Linda! Your family meant alot to us too, and so happy my dad was able to do that for your family.

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**Kris Matson Youle** - October 14, 2015 at 12:25 PM

JA

“ Steve and family

*Very sorry for your loss. I still remember your dad taking my senior pics in your back yard. He had me stand next to an old wooden ladder for one of the shots. I remember thinking this won't be a pic that I will choose. It turned out to be one of my favorites. Your dad had a creative eye.*

*Jeff Aas*

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**Jeff Aas** - October 04, 2015 at 09:56 AM

KY

*Thank you for sharing and caring!*

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**Kris Matson Youle** - October 14, 2015 at 12:27 PM

JM

“ Steve and Family,  
*I am so sorry for your loss. God Bless the Memory of your father.  
EBC Forever, John Monilaws*

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**John Monilaws** - October 04, 2015 at 07:02 AM

KY

*Thank you for sharing, John.*

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**Kris Matson Youle** - October 14, 2015 at 12:28 PM

CO

“ Jeff and family, we are so sorry to hear of your loss. We are sorry that we didn't get to meet Kenneth. It seems that we will meet some of you when the time is right. We wish we could be there for the funeral. Tom and Corky Olson

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**Corrine and Tom Olson** - October 03, 2015 at 07:55 PM

KY

*Thank you for caring and shaing, and I wish we could all meet  
sometime, too. And thank you so much for the funeral flowers!*

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**Kris Matson Youle** - October 14, 2015 at 12:27 PM