



## Kevin Craig Cartwright

July 11, 1954 - May 24, 2020

Kevin Craig Cartwright, 65 of Esko passed away peacefully on Sunday, May 24, 2020. After starting with nine lives, he lived eleven, and the twelfth was his last. He lived hard, loved unconditionally, and passed surrounded by wifey, daughters, and the rock music he loved.

Kevin was born July 11, 1954 in Albert Lea to Don and Norma Cartwright and moved to Scanlon at the age of five. He graduated from Cloquet High School in 1972.

Kevin married Tamara Swanson on May 23, 1981. He celebrated 39 years of marriage this year with the woman he shared his life with, and they shared their home in Esko since 1983.

Kevin enlisted as an Army medic during the Vietnam War Era (stationed in Germany from 1973-76) and worked as a paper maker at Potlatch/Sappi for 37 years. His work ethic and sense of duty was noteworthy, and he took pride in his job and providing for his family. He could be found creating diamond willow walking sticks, picking agates, and learning about the world. He had a never-ending curiosity for how things worked. He was an organizer and collector of oddities and the unusual. Kevin enjoyed spurts of cooking, walkabouts in the yard, looking at the stars, and fishing in the creek with his children and grandchildren. Writing poetry was a lesser known passion he shared with those close to him.

Kevin was a supporter – of his wife and her hobbies, children, and grandchildren and their lives, and proud of the accomplishments of his family and friends. He always vocally shared his love, and never shied from a hug or loving words. Known to some as a stubborn man, he showed nothing but patience and love for his grandchildren. Many hours were spent teaching, walking, and listening to them.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Marilyn Johnson and Sharon Bastien; and brother, Donnie.

Kevin is survived by his wife, Tamara; daughters, Laura (Joe) Lehto of Barnum and Alyson (Erik Johnson) Cartwright of Tucson, Ariz.; grandchildren, Elise, Bailey, Xander, Max, Bria and Riley; and sister, Debbie (Jim) King of Vernon Hill, Virg.

The family is holding a private memorial service. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Essentia Hospice in Duluth, MN. Arrangements entrusted to Atkins Northland

Funeral Home, 801 14th St., Cloquet, 55720. Letters and cards of condolence may be sent to the family c/o the funeral home. To sign the guest book and offer an online tribute, see [www.atkinsnorthlandfuneralhome.com](http://www.atkinsnorthlandfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery

---

## Wildwood Cemetery

Pillager, MN,

# Comments

---



“ So sorry to hear of Kevin's death. He certainly was quiet the character! I worked with Kevin, and on a neighboring machine at the mill for about 30 years. He was dedicated to his job, had quite the sense of humor and was full of life! Sending our deepest condolences....Brent Zimmerman

**brent Zimmerman** - May 29, 2020 at 10:54 AM

---



“ Kevin and I grew up in Scanlon, a few hundreds yards apart - "below the hill". We were friends then, but lost touch as many people do. I last saw Kevin at Billy Olson's funeral. We hugged like old friends. Very sad to hear of his passing. He was a great guy.

**John Freeman** - May 28, 2020 at 11:23 PM

---



“ Tammy, I am so sorry to hear Thinking of you and your family and sending ((hugs)) to all of you

**Marie Sward** - May 28, 2020 at 08:03 AM

---



“ Dear Tammy and family, I was so sorry to hear of your loss, I am praying you have strength during this difficult time, and peace and joy in your precious memories. Secondly, as secretary of our class, I want to send our most sincere sympathy! (on behalf of the Class of '76 EHS). Laurie Juntunen Anderson

**Laurie Anderson** - May 27, 2020 at 08:37 AM

---



“ So sorry for your loss. When I first started working at Potlatch in 1979 Kevin broke me in. He taught me a lot. Mostly he taught me how to work safely. I survived because of him. He was a great guy and loved his family.

**Brenda Reed** - May 26, 2020 at 07:51 PM

---



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kevin Craig Cartwright.



May 26, 2020 at 06:28 PM