



## Donald D. Eppenbach

May 21, 1945 - April 23, 2017

Donald Eppenbach, 71  
Kearney resident

Donald Eppenbach, 71 of Kearney died Sunday, April 23, 2017 at CHI Health Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. A memorial service will be 10:30 am Friday, May 5th at the O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney with Pastor Dean Pofahl officiating. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery with Military Honors provided by the American Legion Post # 52 and VFW Post # 759 in conjunction with the Offutt Air Force Base Honors Team.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral home is in charge of arrangements.

Donald was born May 21, 1945 in O'Neill, Nebraska to Earl and Iris (Siewert) Eppenbach. He was raised on a ranch near O'Neill and was a 1963 graduate of O'Neill High School. Don entered into the United States Air Force later that year and was honorably discharged in 1967 after service in Texas, Lincoln, Massachusetts and Guam. On September 3, 1966, he was united in marriage to Juanita Weber in Lincoln, NE. The couple made their home in O'Neill, NE where he was employed by KN Energy in the service department. His job moved the family to Kearney in 1994. Don retired in 2002 after 35 years of employment with KN Energy.

Don enjoyed golfing, hunting, fishing, woodworking and riding motorcycles. He was a longtime member of the American Legion Post #93, a lifetime member of the NRA and a member of the American Hunting Club and the Ft. Kearny Shooting Sports Association. Don was also known for his morning ritual of enjoying 6:00am breakfast at Burger King.

Survivors include his wife, Juanita of Kearney; daughters Debra (Bart) Luedtke of New Richmond, WI and Crystal (Jeff) Smith of Bellevue, NE; grandchildren Clairia Luedtke and

Elliott Smith; sister Peggy (Dave) Sidak of O'Neill, NE; sister-in-law Marilyn (Robert) Hamilton of Smith Center, KS; aunt Leona Knox of Atkinson, NE; as well as, many nieces, nephews and cousins. He will also be missed by his schnauzers, Sidney and KoKo.

Don was preceded in death by his parents and grandparents.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 233-3244

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

MAY 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations  
4115 Ave N  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 234-3500  
[info@osrfh.com](mailto:info@osrfh.com)  
<https://www.osrfh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Donald D. Eppenbach



O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations - April 27, 2017 at 11:18 AM

JS

Such wonderful memories of special times in Don's life. We will miss him. Mike and Jan Smith

Jan Smith - May 03, 2017 at 11:11 AM



“ Donald D. Eppenbach

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM

DO

“ Don was a classmate of mine at O'Neill High School. I remember him as a quiet and nice young man. I extend my sympathy to his family.

Diane Graves O'Hern - June 02, 2017 at 05:34 PM

BE

“ Black Hills Energy employees purchased the Basket of Joy for the family of Donald D. Eppenbach.



Black Hills Energy employees - May 05, 2017 at 08:27 AM

KR

“ *Kathy and Thomas Robertson purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Donald D. Eppenbach.*



---

**Kathy and Thomas Robertson** - May 03, 2017 at 03:31 PM

BR

“ *I was so sorry to hear about the death of Don. I first met him and Juanita when they moved by my parents house. Dad always like Don and the family. My prayers are with the family.*

---

**Betty Rossman** - May 03, 2017 at 01:54 AM

CP

“ *Juanita & family,  
So sorry to hear of Don's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Cindy Paulsen & family*

---

**Cindy Paulsen** - May 02, 2017 at 09:20 AM

DR

“ *Our sincere sympathy and prayers to the family  
Dennis & Roxanne Ryan*

---

**Dennis/Roxanne Ryan** - May 02, 2017 at 08:50 AM

BS

“ *Crystal and Family:*

*My condolences to you and your family. We are thinking of you and offer prayers for peace and comfort.*

---

**Brian Shea** - May 01, 2017 at 06:05 AM

MM

“ So sorry to hear of my Uncle Don's passing away. I have many childhood memories of my Aunt and and Uncle at family gatherings. My most favorite about Don was the time he stuck his big toe in my ear to get me to quiet down to go to sleep. Now you might think "Eww" but I have teased a great many kids in my adult life that I would indeed do the same. It makes me smile every time I think about it.

*My thoughts are with Aunt Juanita, Deb, Chris and their families. I am sorry I live so far away and cannot be there in person for his funeral.*

*Mindy Merrill*

---

**Mindy Merrill** - April 30, 2017 at 02:06 PM

KR

“ I graduated from HS with Don and enjoyed working with him in O'Neill for a number of years. My sympathies go to his family and I am sorry for your loss!  
*Keith and Linda Reynoldson*

---

**Keith Reynoldson** - April 29, 2017 at 05:57 PM

WS

“ *Crystal and Family:*

*I'm so sorry for your loss and hope that your love and memories will help ease this painful time. I'm thinking of you. : )*

*Wendy Spink*

---

**Wendy Spink** - April 26, 2017 at 02:27 PM

DO

“ I graduated from high school with Don. I remember him as a very nice young man. My sympathy to his family.

---

**Diane Graves O'Hern** - April 25, 2017 at 03:02 PM