



Donald R. Wietjes

November 24, 1948 - November 23, 2024

Donald R. Wietjes, 75 of Kearney passed away Saturday, November 23, 2024 at his home surrounded by family. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, November 27, 2024 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kearney. Interment will follow at Prairie Center Cemetery at Haven's Chapel with military honors provided by the Kearney American Legion Post #52 and Kearney VFW Post #749 in conjunction with the Nebraska National Guard Funeral Honors Team. Visitation will be 5-7:00 p.m. Tuesday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. Casual attire is requested for those attending the service and/or visitation.

In Lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the family of Joey Eggelston to help with medical and travel expenses for his son Josh's care. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com.

Don was born November 24, 1948 in Kearney, NE to Amos and Genevieve (Bosle) Wietjes. He attended elementary school at District 55 and District 16. He later attended Kearney High School, graduating with the class of 1967. In 1968, Don enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea during the Vietnam Conflict. Following his honorable discharge in 1969, he then returned to the area where he farmed North of Kearney and ranched West of Pleasanton for many years. In 1973, Don was united in marriage to Mary Jo Nickman.

Don was a member of the Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Kearney American Legion, Kearney VFW and the 2nd Infantry (Indian Head) Division Association. He enjoyed farming, ranching, fishing, hunting, calling Pam and wanting help with something NOW, eating food that was prepared by literally anyone else but him, and being ridiculed by friends for being a longtime Royals Fan even when they were good.

Left to cherish his memory are his children, Pam (Lanny) Gibbs of Pleasanton, Karen (John) Johnson of Kansas City, MO and John (Lana) Wietjes of Ravenna; grandchildren, Clay and Riley Wietjes; mother, Genevieve Wietjes of Kearney; siblings, Brenda (Keith) Martin of San Antonio, TX, Rodney (Connie) Wietjes of Liberty, MO, Dennis Wietjes of York, NE and Kristi (Rich) George of Snohomish, WA; his sidekick, Rufus; as well as many extended family and friends.

Don was preceded in death by his father, Amos; brother, Jerry Wietjes; and his beloved dogs, Clyde, Duke and Hank.

Cemetery Details

Prairie Center Cemetery at Haven's Chapel

31918 160th Road
Kearney, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **26**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

NOV **27**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
3315 11th Ave
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ *condolences and prayers...jd*

Jerome Einspahr - December 05, 2024 at 12:11 PM



“ *RIP, I will always remember him as Donnie. He was a wonderful guy and friend back in the 70s. My deepest sympathy to the family!*



Nancy Harrington - November 26, 2024 at 08:48 PM



“ *Craig, Cathy, Scott, and Amber Johnson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donald R. Wietjes.*



Craig, Cathy, Scott, and Amber Johnson - November 26, 2024 at 09:20 AM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Donald R. Wietjes.*



November 26, 2024 at 06:58 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Donald R. Wietjes.*



November 25, 2024 at 01:34 PM



“ *Gary & Pamela Reiter and Our Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Donald R. Wietjes.*

Gary & Pamela Reiter and Our Families - November 25, 2024 at 09:47 AM



“ *Gary & Pamela Reiter and Our Families purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Donald R. Wietjes.*



Gary & Pamela Reiter and Our Families - November 25, 2024 at 09:47 AM

GR

“ On the lighter side of memories, our family lived in Wyoming and we would travel in the early years (in a sleek Hudson Hornet) back to Nebraska almost yearly on vacation! It was , without air conditioning, a hot miserable ride with all windows open! We would have Wietjes/Reiter reunions with uncle Amos & aunt Genevieve, uncle George & Aunt Dee, uncle Maurice & aunt Mamie and my dad Kenneth & mom Frieda along with grandma Alvina Wietjes! The older (still young) boys, Jerry, Donald, Dick Reiter and myself always seemed to have fun by getting into trouble! My one memory that still stands out was when (I don't remember whose idea it really was) but collectively we decided to tear up old grain sacks, rip up some Alf alpha or Timothy, roll it into cigars and smoke it 😊 The first puff made us cough like crazy, the second puff made us turn green and cough, the third puff kept us coughing (still green), made us extremely dizzy and then we started puking and gagging!!! Today I am still a little green, still am coughing a little bit, but I think we all learned some kind of lesson?? (Maybe)!

Gary Reiter - November 25, 2024 at 09:34 AM

KG

Thanks for sharing that Gary! I wonder whose idea that was?

Kristi (Wietjes) George - November 25, 2024 at 08:02 PM