



James Rikli

January 30, 1944 - May 3, 2010

James Rikli, 66, of Kearney died Monday, May 3, 2010 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Funeral services will be 2 PM, Friday, May 7th at Grace Fellowship in Kearney. The Revs. Greg Mast and Mitch Ivey will lead the celebration of Jim's life. Military honors will be conducted by the Navy Honor Guard in conjunction with VFW Post 759 and American Legion Post 52 of Kearney at the Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be 5-7, Thursday at O'Brien Straatmann Funeral Home in Kearney. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Gideons International. On-line condolences may be submitted to osafh.com. O'Brien Straatmann Funeral Home in Kearney is in charge of arrangements. Jim was born on January 30th, 1944 in Beatrice, Nebraska, to Vernon and Arlyne (Zabel) Rikli. He grew up in Beatrice and received his high school education at Beatrice High School where he was part of the relay team that still holds the State record in the 2-Mile Relay. Jim subsequently attended Hastings, Peru, and Kearney State colleges before enlisting in the Navy in 1964, where he served during the Vietnam conflict aboard P-3 Orion anti-submarine aircraft until his honorable discharge in 1968. Jim was united in marriage to Sue Wiebe on June 12th, 1970 in Beatrice, Nebraska, where his uncle and friend Dutch Rikli stood as his best man. Jim and Sue lived in Kearney, El Charman Lake south of Gibbon, and Shelton. He owned Rikli Financial Services where he specialized in providing financial and estate planning to clients distributed throughout the Midwest. Jim had many interests ?" cooking, fishing, traveling, and his Christian faith ?" to

name a few, but his strongest single interest was people. The greatest expression of his faith was in the way he saw the unrealized potential in those around him and invested into them with vigor. Jim's influence is seen in the lives of those with whom he came in contact. Survivors include his wife, Sue; son Chris and his wife Megan (Hunnicuttt) of Dallas, Texas; daughter Sarah Green and her husband Walt of Gretna, Nebraska and their children Maci and Moriah; daughter Nancy Stahla and her husband Rock of Grand Island, Nebraska and their children Lydia and Grant. Jim is also survived by his brother Rick of Phoenix, Arizona, and his brother Tom and his wife Monica of Colorado Springs. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Rikli*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Hi Sue: I send you my expression of sympathy for the loss of your husband and may God grant you & your family strength for the months ahead. A friend of mine in Nebraska sent me the memorial video done by your son and such a lovely tribute to his dad. Godspeed and my thoughts & prayers are with you!*

Donna (Penner) Fox - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM



“ *My condolences to you , Sue. I was saddened to read of Jim's passing but I was so pleased to read of his faith in Jesus Christ. How great to know that someday there will be a great reunion in heaven! I have vivid memories of you running down the lane to the good ole country school and I have memories of your husband from high school -- I always thought what a perfect couple the two of you made! I know you are too young to be a widow and I pray the Lord's special grace for you at this time. May your memories and God's love and grace sustain you at this time.*

Leona Penner - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

GB

“ Sue, I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the tribute to Jim. I am passing to my brother Dean as I know he will enjoy the tribute as well. Love to you during this difficult time. It is such a mixed feeling of so sad and yet so proud of their lives and accomplishments. I remember with my Mom I wanted to call her so bad to tell her how wonderful the services were and all the people I heard from. I am sure it is the same for you. Please know people have you wrapped in a hug as long as you need it. Fondly, Gloria

Gloria Kechely Bain - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

LM

“ Sue and family, We were really suprised to see Jim's obituary in the paper. You have our sympaties and prayers as you go forward. Though we haven't seen you folks for several years, I do remember visiting with Jim on occasion and attending one of the graduation parties for one of the kids. God bless. Leslie McHargue, Central City.

Leslie McHargue - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

FS

“ Hi - I kenw Jim when he was in Memphis, TN in the Nave. I was in college a member at McLean Baptist Church in Memphis. Jim used to spend weekends with us. Sometimes he stayed with me at my Grand Parents' house. I had plenty of time to get to know Jim taking him and others back to the base on Sunday nights. Lando Lee (our "Youth Pastor") told me about this web site. God bless and keep you, Fred Seigneur PS - I'm married and live in Sterling, VA (near Washington, DC).

Fred Seigneur - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

LL

“ Much Love to you, Sue and family. Phil Roberts telephoned me of Jim's passing. I will always treasure my staying with Jim and his folks and being a part of your wedding. (I was a part of Phil Roberts wedding too). I will also treasure Jim's participation in McLean Baptist Church, Memphis in 1965. I refer to the fabulous time we had with young adults at church from mid 60's to the mid 70's. A scripture that comes to mind is "We KNOW that we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren." I think that 1st John 3:14 or 13. Sue, I loved Jim and I still do. Also I love you and your beautiful family. God bless you real good.

Lando Lee - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

LL

“ Much love to you, Sue and family. We shall miss Jim very much. How thrilled I am to hear from Phil

Lando Lee - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

GS

“ Sue, Chris, Sarah and Nancy, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Mike E. had kept me posted on Jim's condition. We are sorry for your loss. We will have a luminair in Jim's name at the Shelton Relay for life.

Greg, Brenda, Maggie & Emma Urbanek, Shelton - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

DM

“ Sue and Family, Our thoughts and prayers are with you. -Dan

Dan and Sandy Mahalek - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

MK

“ Dear Sue, On May 3, 2010, "God opened wide the gates of heaven, for the love of your life, James, to enter into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." And Jesus was standing at those gates to give James a big bear hug. Sue, we are praying that those same arms will hold you tightly in these hard days ahead. With love and sympathy from your 3rd grade teacher at the Hoag School. Mary Ann and Allen Kreuzscher

Mary Ann & Allen Kreuzscher - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

PR

“ Sue and family, I am deeply saddened and it's with heavy heart that I extend my condolences on the passing of Jim – Husband, Father and Friend to all who knew him. Our friendship began in November 1964 while in U. S. Navy Boot Camp in San Diego, CA. We continued our friendship while attending Naval Aviation Electronics Schools in Millington outside of Memphis, TN, for the greater part of 1965. At that time we became active in the McLean Ave. Baptist church where Jim was a strong leader in the Young Adults Group and choir; all the while encouraging fellow Navy and Marine "Airdales" to participate in services with us. He was my Friend and Brother in Christ. Through the years we visited when we could but remained close in Spirit although separated by distance. We're now separated by a void much greater than distance but we will meet again and rejoice on that Glorious Promised Day! - Phil Roberts

Phil Roberts - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

VS

“ So Sorry to hear Jim passed away. Jim and I were very good friends in High School. I have not seen Jim since the summer of 1962 right after we graduated. I had heard he lived in the Kearney area. I send my best to his family. He and I had some great times together. He was a quality person when we were young and I expect it carried through to his entire life. My Best to you! Virg

Virg Setzer - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

BB

“ Jim was my hearthrob when I was a kid. I just thought he was the greatest. His big smile just made everyone feel special. Then as I got to know him as an adult, he remained the same wonderful friendly person. He will always hold a special place in my heart.
Barbara Dry Betz Bentonville, AR

Barbara Dry Betz - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

DG

“ I went all through the Beatrice schools with Jim. He was always a good person. I am sorry for your loss.

Dave Gould - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

HC

“ Our prayers are with you at this difficult time. May you find the strength and grace of the Lord to carry through and keep you in His care day by day.

Harold & Dorothy Cook - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

CP

“ My heart is so heavy as I write this. Words cannot express my feelings for Jim, and all of you. Thoughts and prayers to each of you. I am so glad my Dad got to spend a little time with him a couple weeks ago. He was closer than family to Dad, and I know it meant alot. I can just picture the smile on his face when he met God face to face. For a man who has accomplished so much, he has now accomplished his biggest goal! Love you all.

Connie (Wilkinson) Pavey - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

SM

“ Sue, I am so sorry to hear about Jim. You and your family have my deepest sympathy and are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Sheryl Malchow - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM

TA

“ Our many, many thoughts and prayers are with you at this time. Remember if God brings you to it; he will see you through it. Let us know if you need anything. We will gladly help you out.

The Honas Family of Aurora - August 21, 2013 at 06:00 AM