



## LaVerne "Vern" Brickner

October 26, 1949 - December 27, 2024

LaVerne "Vern" Brickner, 75 of Kearney passed away Friday, December 27, 2024 at his home surrounded by family after a short illness. A funeral mass will be held 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at St. James Catholic Church in Kearney with Fr. Joe Hannappel officiating. A rosary will be held 10:00 a.m. Tuesday prior to the service. Visitation will be 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Monday followed by a time of sharing at the church.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Vern was born October 26, 1949 in York, Pennsylvania to Herman H. Houck and Lydia G. (Bowers) Brickner. He was raised in the Children's Home of York in York, PA. Vern later attended Thaddeus Stevens Trade School in Lancaster, PA studying auto body repair. He used to hitchhike to and from York, PA while attending school in Lancaster. During his stay at the Children's Home, Vern met a counselor who greatly impacted his life: Paul Gunning. Paul was a great friend and mentor to Vern and they stayed in touch until Paul's death in 2021. Vern always stopped to visit Paul when he traveled back to York, PA. On August 4, 1969, he enlisted into the U.S. Army. He completed a one year tour in Vietnam. Then he served in Panama from 1971-1974 and was honorably discharged, reaching the rank of Drill Sergeant in July of 1977. While

attending a play at Kearney Community Theatre, Vern met the love of his life, DeAnn Kogl. The couple later married at Countryside Christian Church on September 18, 1999. Their marriage was later blessed at St. James Catholic Church. Vern was employed at Eaton Corp. for 23 years. He later worked at Kearney High School, Ace Hardware and retired as a custodian at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in 2014.

Vern enjoyed gardening, fishing, singing, bowling and softball throughout his life. He never knew a stranger and will be remembered for his sense of humor. He was an avid fan of the Philadelphia Eagles football and Philadelphia Phillies baseball. Vern loved Penn. State Football, much to the chagrin of his fellow Eaton Co-workers. Vern was a member of St. James Catholic Church. He was a proud father and Grandpa.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, DeAnn Brickner of Kearney; daughters, Valerie (Jason) Stroup and Crystal (Brent) Tejcka, all of Kearney; grandchildren, Maisie Ellingson, Cadin Summers, Brennen Stroup, Collin Brickner, Everly Tejcka, River Tejcka, Jaron Stroup, Taylor (Ashley) Tejcka, Tanner Tejcka; great granddaughter, Adalynn Tejcka; special friends, Cecilia and Walt Fick; special aunt, Bertha "Buzz" Holloway of PA; as well as many extended family and friends.

Vern was preceded in death by his parents; foster mom, Carolyn "Fuzz" Myers; friend, Bob Driver.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 6. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church  
3801 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847

## Rosary

JAN 7. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church  
3801 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847

## Funeral Mass

JAN 7. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church  
3801 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847



# Tribute Wall



“ DeAnn, Sorry to see that Vern passed away. He will be missed.

Janet Tibbs - March 21, 2025 at 10:12 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of LaVerne "Vern" Brickner.



January 06, 2025 at 01:27 PM



“ Laure and Charlie Beckman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of LaVerne "Vern" Brickner.

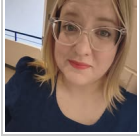
Laure and Charlie Beckman - January 06, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ Laure and Charlie Beckman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of LaVerne "Vern" Brickner.



Laure and Charlie Beckman - January 06, 2025 at 11:58 AM



“ *LaVerne will be greatly missed at Ace Hardware. No matter how bad of a day I was having, I could ALWAYS count on him to decide he had enough time in his day to hear me out, even if we didn't have what he was looking for.* ”



Katie Teahon - December 31, 2024 at 10:13 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of LaVerne "Vern" Brickner. ”

December 31, 2024 at 10:06 PM



“ *Louis Louis lit a candle in memory of LaVerne Brickner* ”



Louis Louis - December 30, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of LaVerne "Vern" Brickner.* ”



December 30, 2024 at 12:24 PM

AM

“ Deanne, was saddened by the news of Verns passing. So sorry for your family’s loss. Thinking of you all. Anne and Bill McCracken

Anne McCracken - December 30, 2024 at 11:29 AM

KP

“ Vern was one of a kind....Ornery and always making me laugh. My heart hurts for you Valerie, Crystal and DeAnn and all his family. I pray you find comfort in the promise of you all being together again someday. ❤️

Kerri Pearson - December 29, 2024 at 02:45 PM

MA

“ Deanne, Crystal and Valerie: i am so sorry for your loss. Though the miles kept us apart, LaVerne and I were connected in our hearts and minds. We were family and I loved him. Marcia

Marcia - December 29, 2024 at 12:28 AM

MA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Marcia - December 29, 2024 at 12:21 AM

DB

Thank you for sharing, Marcia. It just not real.

DeAnn Brickner - December 29, 2024 at 08:31 PM