



Lorin R Downing

October 19, 1941 - November 27, 2025

Lorin R. Downing, 84, a lifelong resident of Kearney, passed away Thursday, November 27, 2025, at his home in Casa Grande, AZ.

Lorin was born on October 19, 1941, to Willis Kellogg and Helen Viola (Cruit) Downing. He was a graduate of Kearney High School. Mr. Downing was an entrepreneur and long-time owner of Downing Company and University Self-Storage. An avid outdoorsman, Lorin enjoyed hunting, fishing and sport shooting. Additionally, he spent many years drag racing behind the wheel of the local favorite Pete's Patriot 1969 AMX racecar. A licensed pilot later in life, Lorin enjoyed flying his Piper Cherokee airplane. Most recently he enjoyed spending his winters in Arizona where he made many friends and enjoyed golfing.

In addition to his parents, Lorin was preceded in death by his beloved wife Kay (Wilson). He and Kay wed in 1966 and made their home in Kearney where they were both active members of the community.

Lorin is survived by son Rob (Aimee) Downing of Mooresville, NC, son Brian Downing of Kearney, brother Jim (Sue) Downing of Kearney, his grandchildren Connor and Claire Downing, many nieces and nephews, and girlfriend Panda Vest of Tucson, AZ.

Visitation with family will be held at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney on Monday, December 15, 2025, from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. A graveside service will follow at Kearney Cemetery with Pastor Sean Dougherty officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to be made in Lorin's memory, to a charity of your choice. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com All arrangements are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Family receiving friends

DEC 15. 1:00 PM - 3:00 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>

Graveside Service

DEC 15. 3:15 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ I’m sorry for your loss, I saw about his passing the the “Gone West” page in the March 2026 EAA magazine. I got started in aviation in Nebraska so I like to check out the lives of those from there. Wanted to make sure you got to see his mention in the magazine.
-Nicole



Nicole Cullen - March 29 at 01:48 PM

HB

“ Lorin was a friend to all. Welcoming, genuine, loyal and always willing to lend a hand. His laughter could be heard from across the room. He had a vibrant spirit and unshakable positive attitude. No matter the situation, he could always find the good. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the Downing family. The photos are of Lorin enjoying the great outdoors- Platte River Hunting- Dec 2018.



Hans Bashore - December 15, 2025 at 07:15 AM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Lorin R Downing.



December 13, 2025 at 04:32 PM



“ Greg and Kimberly Anderson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lorin R Downing.

Greg and Kimberly Anderson - December 13, 2025 at 04:32 PM



“ Kb T. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lorin R Downing.

Kb T. - December 11, 2025 at 02:55 PM



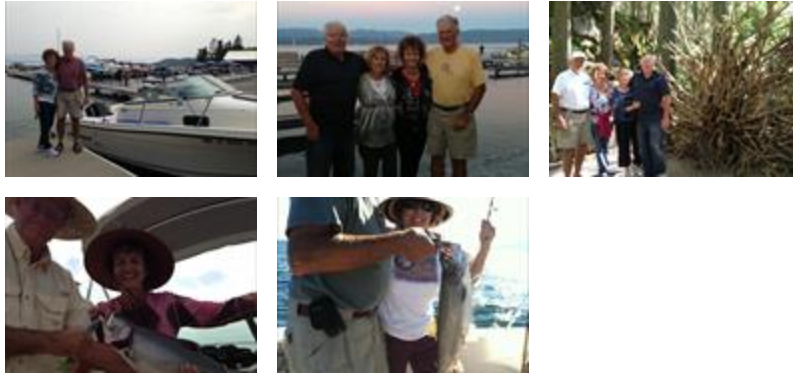
“ Thank you for being such a wonderful uncle; your spirit lives on in the kindness you always had for everyone.



Kimberley Warnick - December 10, 2025 at 07:58 PM

PV

“ 6 files added to the album *The Fearsome Foursome*



Panda Vest - December 08, 2025 at 03:29 PM

MV

“ *Lorin is in my Book of Heros. I only knew him personally for a couple years – since he came to Sunday dinner at my house, accompanied by my sister, Panda Jean Vest. Panda and Kay were best friends; Lorin and Lanny best friends as well. They all graduated from KHS the same year. Both couples were close over the years – travelling together, going to dinner, sharing time together. After Kay and Lanny were gone, Lorin and Panda became close, and as they say, “in the breast of an 80-year-old beats the heart of an 18-year-old”. Male and female alike. A beautiful story of companionship, happiness and love. Lorin was a marvelous human being. An eternal optimist. Always in control. Capable of great things (common to Nebraskans, I believe). A hero. He died with dignity, and at peace. Surrounded by love.*

Marshall Vest - December 08, 2025 at 09:48 AM

NW

“ *Lorin you were one great person and a wonderful neighbor. Always met you with a smile and there if you needed anything. We miss you so much already.*

Nancy Winterquist - December 07, 2025 at 12:33 PM

TB

“ We just lost a rare man driven by ethics, principle and unwavering loyalty.

Though Lorin Downing, may have appeared to be quiet and conservative - he had a well-developed sense of fun... My wife and I live a few blocks from Lorin's Mission Royale [Arizona] house. Since 2022 Lorin was at our house for a home-cooked dinner about once a week. With that he always provided his own drinks, typically from a giant bottle of vodka [we kept in our freezer] for his pre-meal martini 'with' three extra-large olives. But when he returned the favor to give my wife a break, his favorite go-to was Olive Garden or Papa Murphy's Pizzas...! [Even with Lorin in home-hospice in Mission Royale for the last few weeks of his life and we were able to visit him about every-other day, the swift decline in his health since September caught us unprepared.]

Lorin...your visits, our shared high school and adult memories, and your laughter - will continue to resonate...

Tom & Sherrie Beshore

Thoams W. Beshore - December 06, 2025 at 12:58 PM

DB

“ Lorin was one of my most favored neighbor and friend here in Casa Grande. It always amazed me how vibrant and active Lorin was for his age. He had great social graces and was always fun to be around. I know these past months were tough for Lorin, but he never complained and always had a positive attitude. My thoughts and prayers are with Lorin, Rob , Brian, Panda and all Lorin's family and loved ones. RIP my friend...till we meet again.

Darrell Block

Darrell Block - December 04, 2025 at 11:03 AM

WH

“ I was saddened to hear of Lorin's passing. I was fortunate to be his flight instructor in Arizona when he decided to pursue his lifelong dream of becoming a pilot. It's an understatement to say that I was in awe of a person taking on such a challenging endeavor well into his 70s. Lorin was a gentleman in the truest sense of the word and I felt privileged to be his friend. My only regret is that we didn't cross paths sooner. My condolences to his sons who he was very proud of.

The photo is Lorin flying his airplane near Sedona, Az in Mar 2021.

Walt Holland



W Holland - December 02, 2025 at 02:30 PM



Wow! That is truly inspiring. Thank you for sharing. He will definitely be missed.

Fabie Valery - December 04, 2025 at 01:43 PM