



Richard "Dick" Garrelts

August 15, 1952 - December 23, 2021

Richard Paul "Dick" Garrelts passed away in the early hours of December 23, 2021. He was surrounded by his family at CHI St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lincoln, Nebraska after a long fight with cancer. Richard's family will hold a Celebration of Life at 10:00am Saturday, January 22, 2022 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home. His family requests that you come ready to share fond stories. Scattering of his ashes will take place at a later date with close family.

Memorials are suggested to donor's choice. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

The son of Edwin Paul Garrelts and the grandson of Orville Walter and Laura Strong, Richard was born on August 15, 1952 and grew up in the Kearney area. Richard enlisted in the army in 1972. The following year, while stationed in Giessen, Germany, the sister of an army friend prepared to visit, requesting that her brother find her a date for New Year's Eve. Mimi first heard Richard on one of the many audio letters sent by her brother and immediately fell in love with his voice. The two began to write letters, and she fell further in love with his wit and prose. They met for the first time in December 1973 at the Frankfurt airport and later had a first date at Dachau (yes, really) and the Munich Hofbrauhaus. They married in 1975, and made a life for themselves in

Lytle, Texas, where Richard worked as a finish carpenter and where they had two children. In the mid 1980s, at the behest of his grandparents, Richard returned to Nebraska to run their farm. Richard was also a rural carrier for the United States Postal Service for almost 25 years and was especially known for acts of kindness both large and small and the care he showed his elderly customers. Richard was a beloved husband and father and will be forever missed and thought of.

He is survived by his wife, Mary "Mimi" Garrelts; son, Richard Paul "Rick" Garrelts, Jr. and his wife, Alyssa, and children, Richard III, Rena, and Ruthanne of Westfield, Indiana; and daughter, Jodi Lea Garrelts of Lincoln, Nebraska. He is also survived by many close friends who meant everything to him.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JAN **22**. 10:00 AM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations

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Kearney, NE 68847

(308) 234-3500

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<https://www.osrfh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard "Dick" Garrelts



O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations - January 22, 2022 at 02:21 PM



“ Richard "Dick" Garrelts

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Garrelts.



January 22, 2022 at 11:30 AM



“ I can still eat four crackers in one minute. 😊
Prosit, Brother. See you again. 🍷

Buster - January 22, 2022 at 09:48 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Garrelts.*



January 21, 2022 at 03:25 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Garrelts.*



January 21, 2022 at 10:06 AM



“ *We are so sorry to hear about the loss of Dick. What a good man! We lived north of Amherst for many years on the farm/ranch where we raised our 4 children. Our children went to school with the Garrelts children, and Dick was our mail carrier. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you. Dave and Maris Bentley and family*

Maris Bentley - January 18, 2022 at 08:09 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Garrelts.*



January 18, 2022 at 09:35 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Richard "Dick" Garrelts.*



January 06, 2022 at 05:51 PM



“ *So sorry about Dick! We worked together at Riverdale Post Office. Kearney had placed me up at Riverdale and he helped me so much. Everyone loved him on the route he always was willing to help anyone. He would go back out to help someone when he got done carrying his route. Great personality and so kind!! My sympathy!!
Pam Tool*

Pamela Tool - December 29, 2021 at 09:10 PM



“ *Was so sorry to here about Dick He was a good friend when we were growing up in Odessa. Lot of good memories from back in good old Odessa. So sorry again from Cort & Bonnie Schanou*

cort schanou - December 28, 2021 at 08:42 PM

NW

“ *What a special friend Dick was. We worked together for many years at the Amherst Post Office and he was our Amherst-Riverdale rural carrier for many years. We shared working space at the post office and his wit kept us going most days. His humor will be remembered by the Wicks. We always kidded him about skidding the corner and sliding into our mailbox. He never knew what he would find when he opened the box. My son Chuck was known for putting cats, etc. in there. We know how he fought that first round of cancer and we all wanted it to be successful and not return. But cancer has a way of coming back and he knew how our family had to deal with it. I truly loved his grandpa and grandma Walters whose basement apartment I rented for 4 years. They were special guests at our wedding 60 years ago. They took this country girl into their home and treated me so well. It was how I got to know the whole family. What a blessing to be able to work with Dick and learn that he was Louise and PomPom's grandson. He will be missed by the old Amherst office and carriers even though he has been retired for some years. He was so proud of his kids and their achievements. He loved his wife and was thankful for her keeping the place running while he was at work.*

Nancy S Wick - December 28, 2021 at 04:09 PM