



## Ricky L. Popken

January 30, 1953 - July 31, 2019

Ricky L. Popken  
Elm Creek Resident

Ricky L. Popken, 66, of Elm Creek passed away on Wednesday, July 31, 2019 surrounded by his family at his home in Elm Creek. Memorial services will be held at noon on Sunday, August 25, 2019 at the Elm Creek Park.

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.

Ricky Lynn Popken was born on January 30, 1953 in Peoria, Illinois to Larry and Carole (Haines) Popken. He received his education from East High School in Sioux City, Iowa and went on to continue his education at University of South Dakota in Vermillion, South Dakota and Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

On October 21, 1972 Ricky was united in marriage to Donna Hoing and to this union three children were born: Rae Terese, Joy, and Cody. The couple later separated.

On November 1, 2007 Ricky was united in marriage to Elizabeth Kister in

Crystal River, Florida. Ricky worked as a laborer for Tyson Foods for over thirty years until pursuing one of his lifelong dreams of being a chef at his own restaurant.

Ricky always liked to keep himself busy. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, golfing, woodworking, crocheting and cooking. Ricky loved to have people over to cook for them and entertain them.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Elizabeth Popken of Elm Creek; daughter, Joy Gray and her husband, Jerrod of Lexington; son, Cody Popken and his wife, Brandy of Lexington; step-sons, Michael Bray and his wife, Angela of Kearney and Douglas Bray and his wife, Tori of Ada, Oklahoma; grandchildren, Kamryn Pike, Kinley Popken and Declan Gray; step-grandchildren, Sky Dewey and Holden, Adyen, Jace, Hendrix, Indica and Ash Bray; brother, Chris Popken and his wife, Kristi of Sioux City, IA; sisters, Jennifer DeRoos and her husband, Thomas of Gretna, Vicki Niblo and her husband, Mark of Blue Springs, MO, Nancy Redding of Nevada and Sherry Sparks and her husband, Perry of Iowa City, IA; along with many other relatives and friends.

Ricky was preceded in death by his parents; his daughter, Rae Terese Popken in 1973; and his father-in-law, John A. Kister.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ricky L. Popken*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *My condolences to the family.  
Cyndi "Wendzillo" Lingeback*

**Cynthia "Wendzillo" Lingeback** - August 22, 2019 at 11:27 AM



“ *I am so sorry for your loss. This totally blew me away.  
Rick was my supervisor at IBP from back in the day. He and I got  
along great. I was his blue hat for sometime. I enjoyed work with  
Rick. He made work fun. The last time I saw Rick he was living in  
Cozad and had opened up a meat shop. This has been some time  
ago.  
RIP Rick you will be missed.*

**Evonne Whitmore Mulligan** - August 19, 2019 at 05:43 PM



“ *Elizabeth, we are so sorry to hear of Ricks  
passing. You and your family are in our  
thoughts and prayers.*



**Greg Kristie Wagner** - August 19, 2019 at 02:51 PM



“ *So sorry in your loss of Rick. Prayers to all his family. 🙏🙏*

**Craig and Bernita Meads** - August 19, 2019 at 02:24 PM

JN

“ *Jan Noble sent a virtual gift in memory of Ricky L. Popken*



---

**Jan Noble** - August 02, 2019 at 12:40 AM

JN

“ *Al & Jan Noble want to share the good memories of Rick & Liz when we met in 2013. They were both so very carrying and Rick was an exceptional chef. We had a lot of good times and will always cherish them. Our love and PRAYERS to Liz and family. Your loss is very much on our hearts . Please know we are thinking of you. Gods Love and ous.*

---

**Jan Noble** - August 02, 2019 at 12:34 AM