



## Robert E. Kerby

June 22, 1929 - December 22, 2016

Robert E. Kerby, 87 of Kearney was called home to heaven on December 22, 2016 after a brief illness. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Wednesday December 28th at 10:30 am at Prince of Peace Catholic Church located at 2407 W. 56th Street in Kearney, NE with the Rev. Paul Colling officiating. Interment will follow at the Kearney Cemetery.

Visitation will be 5:00 to 7:00 pm Tuesday at the at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home at 4115 Avenue N, Kearney, Nebraska followed by a 7:00 p.m. Vigil Service and Rosary at the funeral home.

Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

He was born June 22, 1929 in Denver, Colorado to Earl and Mary (Kranz) Kerby. Bob grew up living in various Colorado towns before settling in Colorado Springs as his parents constructed highway bridges throughout the state. At the young age of 17, Bob left home and went to work as a cowboy on well-known cattle ranches in northeastern New Mexico including the Bell Ranch. His passion for horses, the West, and creating western artwork was just beginning. Bob met Genon Micek (his wife of 63 years) at the Bear Trap Ranch in Colorado and they were united in marriage on Dec 31, 1951 in Columbus, Nebraska. They moved to their current acreage in Kearney in 1958 where Bob started colts, trained horses, calf roped and began oil painting. Bob graduated from then, Kearney State College, in 1963. He taught art at

Walnut Junior High School in Grand Island for four years from 1964 to 1968. His interest and talent to create western oil paintings continued to blossom and he turned to being a full-time Western artist. As the "Artist of the American West" he created over 300 oil paintings.

Bob and his son Clint, started Bob Kerby's Longhorn Studio in 1988. Utilizing Bob's paintings, they produced a full line of Christmas cards, prints, two Western cookbooks and his popular Range Riders appointment calendar, which has been enjoyed and viewed by thousands of people nationwide. The 2018 calendar edition will mark the 30th year of production. Bob also stayed close to his love of rodeo and competed in team roping up until he was 74. He put on many jackpot ropings and practices at his arena in Kearney. He loved all children and adored his grandchildren and great granddaughters, as they brought such tremendous joy to his life. He will be dearly missed by his family and many friends who enjoyed his sense of humor, knew of his compassion and shared his passion for art, horses, roping and the Western life style.

Survivors include daughter, Lori (Chris) Watters of Bettendorf, Iowa and son Clint of Kearney. Grandchildren Valerie (Marcus) Wolfe of Papillion, Nebraska; Nicholas (Lucia) Watters of Vicenza, Italy and Richard (Amber) Watters of Rolla, Missouri. Great granddaughters Aurora and Audra Wolfe, Adriana Watters, and Trinity Vroman. Sister Doris (Babe) Schum of Albuquerque, New Mexico, Brother Bill (Helen) Kerby of Halstenbek, Germany and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife in 2015, his parents and one niece.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation on Bob's behalf.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 27. 5:00 PM - 7:00 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>

## Vigil / Prayer Service

DEC 27. 7:00 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>

## Mass of Christian Burial

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DEC **28**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Prince of Peace Catholic Church  
2407 W. 56th Street  
Kearney, NE 68845

# Tribute Wall



“ O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Robert E. Kerby



**O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations** - December 27, 2016 at 12:47 PM



*Absolutely beautiful tribute to Bob. Many great memories.*

**Lisa Zolman** - December 28, 2016 at 09:48 AM

FR

*Clint--Your father was a good friend and a fine "gentleman-Cowboy Artist" of whom I've always been very proud. I hadn't seen him since our college days until he, you, your wonderful mother, and I "hooked-up" a few years ago at dinner one evening--courtesy of Steve Kraus. My parents owned, trained, and showed palomino trick horses and white dancing steeds back in the '40s-early '50s. I too "grew up a-dreamin' of bein' a cowboy." I loved that "History of Neb" mural bob painted at the KSC Student Center back in the early '60s and still have several of his calendars and cook-books. I know he's sittin' around the campfire at that "great round-up" in the sky sharing all his "oils" and stories of his rodeo days. One of the last true Cowboys, and I know how proud he is of you! --Frank Russell, Oro Valley, AZ*

**Frank Russell** - January 02, 2017 at 12:14 PM



“ Robert E. Kerby

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM

KW

“ I got to know Bob, Genon, and Clint when I lived in Grand Island, Nebraska in 1992 on overseas teaching exchange from Canberra, Australia. One of my colleagues from Starr Elementary knew Genon or if my memory serves me well Genon had taught at the school. I remember visiting the family home and being introduced to Robert's love of anything Western and especially his art. Being an art teacher and love of rodeo, I instantly fell in love with American Western art! I couldn't return to Australia without taking home two oil paintings of Bob's and plenty of greeting cards which all the family loved. I happened to think of Bob today and very sad to find out about his passing and Genon's a year before. My condolences go out to you Clint and Kerby family. My parents passed on to heaven in 2018, my mother in her 87th year, and my father his 94th year!! I have been living overseas for the past 9 1/2 years teaching internationally but before that Bob's paintings hung in my home with much enjoyment and memories of my time in the midwest of America. My husband and I will return to Australia next year to live in the country on our 5-acre property and Bob's paintings will once again hang up for all to enjoy!

*I was privileged to meet such lovely people.*

*Kind regards,*

*Katherine Webster*

*katherinejoywebster@gmail.com*

*Teaching at the Frankfurt International School, Oberursel*

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**Katherine Webster** - September 17, 2020 at 12:33 PM

KW

“ I got to know Bob, Genon, and Clint when I lived in Grand Island, Nebraska in 1992 on overseas teaching exchange from Canberra, Australia. One of my colleagues from Starr Elementary knew Genon or if my memory serves me well Genon had taught at the school. I remember visiting the family home and being introduced to Robert's love of anything Western and especially his art. Being an art teacher and love of rodeo, I instantly fell in love with American Western art! I couldn't return to Australia without taking home two oil paintings of Bob's and plenty of greeting cards which all the family loved. I happened to think of Bob today and very sad to find out about his passing and Genon's a year before. My condolences go out to you Clint and Kerby family. My parents passed on to heaven in 2018, my mother in her 87th year, and my father his 94th year!! I have been living overseas for the past 91/2 years teaching internationally but before that Bob's paintings hung in my home with much enjoyment and memories of my time in the midwest of America. My husband and I will return to Australia next year to live in the country on our 5-acre property and Bob's paintings will once again hang up for all to enjoy!

*I was privileged to meet such lovely people.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Katherine Webster*

*katherinejoywebster@gmail.com*

*Teaching at the Frankfurt International School, Oberursel*

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**Katherine Webster** - September 17, 2020 at 12:13 PM

CP

“ Clint just heard the news today. Sorry for your loss. I will always remmber kept my horse at Bobs when midstates finales were in Kearney. Maybe I stayed at the the bar a little to long on Saturday night. Accidents happen you know. Threw a bunch of hay in the pen late that night. Went to leave the next mourning and Bob politely told me to clean my mess up. I was late but I respected him for that I just needed to be reminded how you do things. Never will forget it

craig person - January 23, 2017 at 01:59 PM

DS

“ Donna Scoville lit a candle in memory of Robert E. Kerby



Donna Scoville - January 01, 2017 at 11:54 AM

Lisa Zolman

“ Lisa Zolman lit a candle in memory of Robert E. Kerby



Lisa Zolman - December 29, 2016 at 10:43 AM

JE

“ Jenith lit a candle in memory of Robert E. Kerby



Jenith - December 29, 2016 at 05:03 AM

DR

“ *Clint, I am so sorry that you lost your dad. Please accept my deepest sympathies. I was honored to be able to spend some time with your dad this spring. You are both in my thoughts and prayers during this solemn occasion my friend.*

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**David Ruben** - December 28, 2016 at 09:50 AM

TO

“ *Clint and Kerby Family - so sorry for your loss. Heaven was in need of a great Cowboy! Our thoughts are with you. Tina Ostberg*

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**tina ostberg** - December 27, 2016 at 07:25 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert E. Kerby.*



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December 25, 2016 at 08:31 AM

CP

“ *Clint so sorry for your family's loss. Lots of great memories flow through our minds. We know that heaven received a great cowboy.*

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**charlie Van Patten** - December 25, 2016 at 07:26 AM

CK

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



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**Clint Kerby** - December 25, 2016 at 04:54 AM

KC

“ *Our thoughts are with you.*

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**Ken Cannon** - December 23, 2016 at 11:12 PM

RN

“ *Sorry for your loss. Bob broke horses for my uncle Rudy Davis in Shelby Ne. He was well known as the guy that rode a horse through Ray's Tavern back in the fifties! May he rest in peace. Rick Davis*

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**Rick Davis Shelby Ne.** - December 23, 2016 at 07:54 PM

JF

“ *I think of Bob every time I look at his painting of the Indians on horseback at our branch. He will certainly be both missed and remembered.*

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**James Friesen** - December 23, 2016 at 05:53 PM

KC

“ *Our thoughts are with you>*

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**Ken Cannon** - December 23, 2016 at 02:55 PM

KF

“ *Our thoughts are with you.*

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**Ken Cannon family** - December 23, 2016 at 02:54 PM

SD

“ *I am so sorry for your loss, I have many fond memories of Bob when I was growing up. He was a wonderful and kind soul.*

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**Sharon Schulte(Merritt Brown's daughter)** - December 23, 2016 at 02:11 PM

DW

*My prayers to your family. I have a lot of great memories from when I used to take photos of Bob's paintings and the ropings he had at Kearney. Dick Wilson*

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**Dick Wilson** - December 27, 2016 at 05:30 PM