



## Robert "Bob" Kuhlmann

December 25, 1942 - November 26, 2020

Robert "Bob" Kuhlmann, 77 of Kearney, died Thursday, November 26, 2020, at his home after a short-lived but hard-fought battle with brain cancer. A Celebration of Life service will be held 2:00 p.m. Monday, November 30, 2020 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kearney with Pastor John Rasmussen officiating. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery with Military Honors provided by the American Legion Post #52 and VFW Post #759 in conjunction with the Nebraska National Guard Honors Team. Visitation will be 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Sunday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. For the safety of all attendees, face coverings are required, and all social distancing guidelines will be followed. The service will be livestreamed through the church website at <https://holycrosskearney.org/livestream/>.

Robert M. Kuhlmann was born December 25, 1942, in Humboldt to Melvin and Adeline (Goos) Kuhlmann. He was baptized as an infant in his grandparent's house and later confirmed at St. James Lutheran Church in Humboldt. He grew up and attended school in Auburn through the 10th grade. His family moved to McCook where he graduated from Red Willow High School in 1961. He married Verleen Rice on August 5, 1962 at Peace Lutheran Church in McCook and they made their home in McCook until 2004. He owned and operated Kuhlmann's Shamrock Service with his father from 1961-1973. He and Verleen moved to Kearney in 2004 after his 31 year career as a conductor for Burlington Northern/Santa Fe railroad. He then

worked part-time at the Buffalo County Fairgrounds, then Eustis Body Shop until finally retiring from Kearney Regional Medical Center in 2018. He served in the Nebraska Army National Guard from 1966 until he was honorably discharged in 1972.

He enjoyed restoring classic cars, miniature live steam engines, working in his shop and helping others. He did not know a stranger and quickly became a friend to everyone he met. He loved watching his grandchildren at their sporting events and dance recitals and found special joy in his young great-grandchildren. He was a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church and sang in the men's choir.

Survivors include his wife, Verleen of Kearney; daughter, Darcie Nightingale of Kearney and son, Garth of Jefferson, SD; grandchildren, Allie (John) Matson of San Jose, CA, Katie Nightingale of Omaha, Jared (Anna) Nightingale of Seattle and Paige Kuhlmann of Vermont; great-grandchildren, Carter and Claire Matson of San Jose, CA; brother, Charles (Teresa) Kuhlmann of McCook; sister, Sharon Huegel (Doug Hoschouer) of McCook; sister-in-law, Yvonne Tickles of Shawnee, KS; along with several nieces and nephews and a multitude of friends.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Melvin and Adeline; brothers-in-law, David Huegel and Joe Tickles.

Memorials are suggested in his name to the family for later 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.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **29**. 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>

## Celebration of Life

NOV **30**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
3315 11th Ave  
Kearney, NE 68845

# Tribute Wall



“ O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home created a Robert Kuhlmann in memory of Robert "Bob" Kuhlmann



**O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations** - November 27, 2020 at 12:54 PM

AG

*It was always wonderful to see Bob's smiling face as he made his rounds while working at KRMC and the Platte Valley Medical Group facilities.*

**Amye Grams** - November 30, 2020 at 05:25 PM

DK

*Bob was worked for Eustis Body Shop, Kearney location for several years. He was a hard worker who was always pleasant and engaging. He made many good friends at our business and will be greatly missed. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Doug Keller*

**Doug Keller** - December 03, 2020 at 10:29 AM

RB

*Bob was a kind,hard working, gentleman that always had time for a smile and a hello. I was a pleasure to work with him at the Buffalo Co. Fairgrounds. He was great to all the cattlemen that came to town for the Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic. Our deepest sympathy to all his family. Ronette Bush-Heinrich*

**Ronette Bush-Heinrich** - December 03, 2020 at 02:21 PM

MG

*Just read Bob's obituary...what a wonderful brother, husband and father. A Christian man, hard worker and served our Country well. Have some "younger" years memories. My sympathy to all of you. The Geisler family. (My mother was his mother Adeline's wonderful friend and cousin.)*

**Mary Geisler** - December 04, 2020 at 07:40 PM



“ *Robert "Bob" Kuhlmann*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM

RL

“ *Charlie, I am so sorry to hear of your lost of your brother Bob. Gary enjoyed his visits with him so much.*

**Ruth Lucas** - July 24, 2021 at 03:36 PM

GW

“ *Bob was a giant of a man to me when I was a young and building my future. I worked for Bob at his full service station, learning trust and responsibility. I remember his piercing voice and there was always the chuckle. Bob's energy was amazing, demonstrated by his passion to model trains.*

**Gary J Winn** - January 01, 2021 at 10:19 AM

RK

“ *So sad to hear of Bob's passing. You are all in our thoughts and prayers during this most difficult time. May God wrap his loving arms around you and comfort you.*

*The Charlie & Sara Mae Walker Family*

**Rajeana Walker Karkruff** - December 04, 2020 at 04:09 PM

GM

“ We are so sorry to learn of Bob's passing. He was such a nice guy and a darned good country western dancer. Verleen and Bob were beautiful dancers as well as beautiful people. Bob is at peace now in the good hands of the Lord. God Bless, Griff & Vickie Malleck

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**Griff Malleck** - December 01, 2020 at 03:25 PM

GH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you in this stressful time. Gary always enjoyed his talks with Bob about their car restoration projects as well as their many trips together on the rails. Keep the good memories deep in your heart and he will be forever with you.

Gary and Karla Harris

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**Gary & Karla Harris** - November 29, 2020 at 11:51 PM

AK

“ Bob sure felt like an older brother that I never had. He and Verleen visited southern California with their children while I was stationed there with the Navy. It was great fun serving as their tour guide and chauffeur. They were the first members of my family to meet Theresa before we were even engaged.

Years later Bob and Verleen came to Honolulu, Hawaii just as my tour of duty there was ending. We spent some fun times running around the island together seeing the many sights.

Although, I didn't see Bob and Verleen often enough, I always felt as if we would just pick up where we had left things.

We'll miss you, Bro.

Al & Theresa Kuhlmann

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**Al Kuhlmann** - November 29, 2020 at 09:03 PM

DK

“ We have fond memories of you and Bob. Thank you for being such good neighbors

to our family. We will keep you in our prayers.

Don & Inez (Melanie's parents)

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**Donald Krass** - November 29, 2020 at 01:24 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Kuhlmann.



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November 29, 2020 at 10:42 AM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Kuhlmann.



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November 28, 2020 at 09:13 PM

VP

“ Sending our love to a wonderful family. Bob was an amazing man - a great friend to my late father and our entire family. He will be missed. May God give you comfort during this difficult time. Vickie (Hinz) Polk & Family

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**Vickie Polk** - November 28, 2020 at 03:45 PM

TM

“ *Tom & Priscilla, Dean, Sheri & Brian, Amy & Mark purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Robert "Bob" Kuhlmann.*



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**Tom & Priscilla, Dean, Sheri & Brian, Amy & Mark** - November 28, 2020 at 01:00 PM

GH

“ *Bob was a master at building and fixing. The classic cars he rebuilt are a testimony to his abilities and are works of art I was lucky enough to have him show his abilities on my car and also was lucky enough to have him as a friend. Gary*

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**gary helms** - November 28, 2020 at 09:43 AM

SH

“ When Bob and I were kids I sometimes thought that Bob was too bossy with me. Bob was 4 years older than me, so I know that he always felt that he had to watch out for me. When I was two years old he would pull me around in his Red Radio Flyer Wagon that he got for Christmas when he turned five. When I turned three, Bob taught me how to ride his trike. When I was 4, Charlie was born, and then Bob had somebody else to watch over. When I was six, Bob taught me how to play Monopoly, as he helped babysit Baby Charlie while Mom & Dad worked. Ever the responsible one. I know that it had to be a pain, to have a little sister following him around wherever he went, no matter what he was doing. We lived in a neighborhood where there were no girls, but a number of guys that Bob could play Marbles and Mumbly Peg with his pocket knife. Our Mom would force him to let me play with them most of the time. It probably irked him, and at times the fellas would "diitch" me, but eventually Bob would break down and let me in on the latest adventure. Charlie was his little buddy and that has been true all of their lives. When I was a teenager Bob advised me who was decent enough to date, whether I wanted to hear it or not. As an adult, Bob shared his views with me on everything from money matters to politics. One thing I always knew: My brother always had my back. I will miss him the rest of my days. It will be grand when we are all together in our Heavenly Home, and we will never have to say "good-bye" again. So long, Bob, you were the best Big Brother any girl ever had.

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Sharon Huegel - November 28, 2020 at 04:44 AM

TR

“ I hadn't seen you in a lot of years but a funny thing I was just thinking about you not to long ago. I met Bob the year i was in college in McCook in 1962. you will be missed. save me a place on the other side,your old friend Tom Ruda.

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tom ruda - November 27, 2020 at 08:55 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Robert "Bob" Kuhlmann.*



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November 27, 2020 at 06:53 PM