



Robert L. Ripp

September 24, 1943 - November 28, 2017

Robert L. Ripp, 74, of Kearney, died Tuesday, November 28, 2017 at his home.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 9:00 am Saturday, December 2, 2017 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. The Reverend Thomas A. Ryan will officiate. Interment will be in the Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-7 pm Friday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home with a 7 pm vigil.

In lieu of flowers memorials are suggested to Prince Of Peace Catholic Church or the Corpus Christi Carmelite Sisters. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com.

Robert Lee Ripp was born on September 24, 1943 in Amherst, Nebraska to Carl W. and Velma N. (Arp) Ripp. He grew up in Amherst and graduated from Amherst High School in 1961. He attended Kearney State College where he earned his B.M.E. in music. While attending Kearney State he also taught music in the Mason City Public Schools.

Robert was united in marriage to Linda Laughlin on June 10, 1964 at St. James Catholic Church in Kearney. The couple made their home in several communities during Robert's career in education. Robert taught at Spalding High School, Sidney, Iowa and Harrison High School, where he was principal and later superintendent. During his time at Harrison he earned his Masters

Degree in Education Administration from Chadron State College. Later he would earn his Doctorate of Education Administration from the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley. He was an administrator at Midwest High School in Midwest, Wyoming before moving to Wray, CO where he was the Superintendent of Public Schools. He briefly left education and was the Chief Financial Officer for Fix Equipment, the John Deere implement dealership in Wray, CO. Robert returned to the education field at Yuma, CO where he was the principal of the middle school. They then moved to Grand Island where he was the superintendent of Grand Island Central Catholic High School until his retirement. Robert and Linda moved to Kearney in 2003, at which time he again returned to education and helped establish the Early Learning Academy in Lexington. He continued at the academy until poor health forced him to retire in 2015.

Robert was a people person and lived with a servant's heart. His Catholic faith has been a constant throughout his life. He is a past member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grand Island and a member of the Rotary International for over 30 years. In the early 2000's Robert was instrumental in establishing the Trike-A-Thon in Lexington. He and his family looked forward to this event every year. He also enjoyed singing.

He is survived by his beloved wife Linda of Kearney; his children, Robert Ripp Jr. and wife Rhonda of Kearney, Jillene Carlisle and husband Mark of Albuquerque, NM, Scott Ripp of Lexington, Camdyn Ripp of Wood River and Matthew Ripp and wife Shannon of Grand Island; grandchildren, Brandon, Ashton, Olivia, Jon Nickolas, Brooklynn and husband Joshua, Preston, Donny, Madison, Aralei and Logan; a brother, William C. Ripp and wife Jane of Ames, IA; two sisters, Betty Chloupek and husband Richard of Litchfield and Brenda Garrelts of Kearney; an aunt, Vivian Axmann of Kearney; and many nieces and nephews.

Robert was preceded in death by his parents; two granddaughters, Jessica and Megan;
and a daughter-in-law, Michelle Ripp.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 1. 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 1. 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

DEC 2. 9:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ Robert L. Ripp

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ To the Ripp family:

I extend my sincerest sympathy as you mourn the loss of Robert. I got to know him shortly after his return to education in Lexington in 2003, as I was then working part-time at the Lexington Clipper-Herald newspaper. Even though I left the paper in 2008 to return to our farm northeast of Lexington, I would still enjoy seeing him at school activities and community functions.

He loved the children at the Academy and we as a community are forever grateful for his diligence in seeing it become a successful early learning place for so many youngsters. One of my most fun assignments while at the paper was coming out to take pictures of the annual Trike-A-Thon. I never was sure who was having more fun, Dr. Ripp or the children.

During this holiday season may you feel the warmth and peace of those who crossed paths with Robert and may you eventually find a new "normal" filled with those special memories only a family can share.

*Sincerely,
Barb Bierman Batie, Lexington*

Barb Batie - December 07, 2017 at 11:16 AM

RG

“ *Randy Gardner lit a candle in memory of Robert L. Ripp*



Randy gardner - December 03, 2017 at 08:35 PM

PR

“ *Our sincere condolences for for your loss. We were unable to attend services which we regret deeply. We are having 2 masses said at Prince of Peace on Bobs behalf.*

In sympathy & prayers,

Pat & Adell Ryan

1619 24 Rd

Axtell, Ne

68924

Pat & Adell Ryan - December 02, 2017 at 09:22 PM

ES

“ I am so saddened to learn of Dr. Ripp’s death. He was my high school music teacher at Sidney, Iowa, which he later told me was his second teaching position. At Sidney, I ended up being his accompanist for the high school choir there as there were very few students who played piano and it was due to Mr. Ripp’s encouragement that I stretched myself to be able to sight read better and play for the choir, and indeed many solos and small groups. After many years passed by, in 1997, I was employed at the Nebraska Department of Education and administered the Even Start Family Literacy Program across the state. At a monitoring visit in Lexington, this gentleman walked in as part of the Even Start partners’ group, and after we all introduced ourselves and started the monitoring process, I said, “I’m sorry, but I have to ask, Dr. Ripp, you look familiar. Did you teach at Sidney High School?” He said, “Yes, my second teaching job.” I said, “I’m Eleanor Shirley, your accompanist!” Well, it was a most happy reunion and we kept in routine contact throughout the remainder of my career at the Department, And, I wanted to be with him at his retirement celebration but had conflicts in my schedule. Bob (I had a hard time calling him by his first name!) was one of the kindest, most generous, and compassionate persons and educators I have ever met and a champion for early childhood in his later years. He always offered to take me to lunch when I was in the area. His memory will forever be a blessing to me in so many ways. I was just thinking of him a week or so ago and wondered if I could find his contact information. I so wish I would have acted on that thought...for now it’s too late and he has left this earthly home, yet to a better place. My sincere sympathies to his wife, Linda, and his entire family. May his legacy live fully and forever.



Eleanor J. Shirley - December 01, 2017 at 10:56 PM

R5

“ Rotary International District 5630 purchased the *Treasured Lilies Spray* for the family of Robert L. Ripp.



Rotary International District 5630 - December 01, 2017 at 02:21 PM



“ My deepest sympathy for the family and friends of Robert. I had the privilege and pleasure of working with him in Grand Island and especially in Lexington with the early childhood program. He was an advocate for high-quality education for all children. He was a role model for many with his kind and loving nature. He will be missed so much.

Rosemary Cervantes - December 01, 2017 at 11:09 AM

KD

“ Kerri Dangler lit a candle in memory of Robert L. Ripp



Kerri Dangler - December 01, 2017 at 09:17 AM

GL

“ *Dear Ripp Family,
Please know that I will keep Dr. Ripp in my thoughts and prayers.
He was a wonderful person who made everyone feel important and
valued. He was always available to answer questions or give good
advice.*

*Greg Logsdon
Diocese of Grand Island
Superintendent of Catholic Schools*

Greg Logsdon - November 30, 2017 at 07:15 PM

YN

“ *Your friends at Northcott purchased the Country
Basket Blooms for the family of Robert L. Ripp.*



Your friends at Northcott - November 30, 2017 at 04:28 PM

AN

“ My heart goes out to your family! He was one of the most amazing men that I have had the pleasure to know. He was such an inspiration to me! He taught me how to be a better teacher and a person. His love of teaching and children was fierce. He was loving, compassionate, caring, kind, supportive and loved and cared for his staff and students. He would come into our classrooms each day to say good morning to all of the students and asked each of us how we were doing. He was always there to listen and give advice on anything. He would always say, as long as students loved school when they left preschool we did our job. I will always remember in my interview him asking me what words describe a good teacher, (they all had to start with letter C) caring, compassionate, collaboration, communicate, creative, calm, and courageous. Those words still mean a lot to me today, not only to describe a good teacher but also words to live by each day. He was a true inspiration, and I know that his legacy will live on in each of our lives and also by the lives of all the students he touched along the way. There will never be someone like him, with such a big heart, he will truly be missed.
-a teacher takes a hand, opens a mind, and touches a heart.-

Abbie Neujahr - November 30, 2017 at 02:31 PM



Abbie, I appreciate your tribute to Dr. Ripp. Truly an exceptional man.

Rosemary Cervantes - December 01, 2017 at 11:11 AM

TR

“ Dear Ripp Family, I was so in shock to hear of Dr. Ripp’s passing. He was the kindest man I ever met. Please know you are being thought of fondly at this sad time with much love. In Sympathy & Friendship, John & Tami Reynolds



Tami Reynolds - November 30, 2017 at 01:40 PM

DR

“ I worked with Dr. Ripp at GICC in Grand Island. He was a wonderful and supportive Superintendent. I will always remember the times he would share his vocal talent on special occasions at school. He was one of a kind as a Superintendent and true to his Catholic faith. I will never forget him as he cared about everyone, students and teachers.

Doris Rempe - November 30, 2017 at 01:28 PM

JO

“ My sincere condolence to Dr. Ripp's family. I worked with him at Lexington and he was always positive, upbeat, and would do anything for the benefit of students. Moreover, he mentored me in several ways and gave me the encouragement to spread my wings in the field of education. He was wise, kind, and thoughtful. I often hear myself saying things that he used to say. Now when that happens, I will smile!

Julie Otero - November 30, 2017 at 01:14 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Robert L. Ripp.*



November 30, 2017 at 12:47 PM



“ *I worked with Dr. Ripp while the Lexington Public Schools had their preschool located in the Tyson Foods building. Dr. Ripp was all about anything that would benefit the children. He was a wonderful person to work with and will be missed by so many.*



Kristie McNulty Wagner - November 30, 2017 at 12:10 PM



“ *I worked with Bob at LPS and he was a kind, thoughtful man who will be missed dearly!*
Tracy Westfall

Tracy Westfall - November 30, 2017 at 11:54 AM

 Hardy
Moreno

“ My most sincere condolences to the Ripp family and those closely related. I personally worked closely with Dr. Ripp for several years at Lexington Public Schools and can honestly only say good things about him. Dr. Ripp cared very much about education and unselfishly took the lead in working with programs that helped disadvantaged children. I often spoke about Nebraska Football and Notre Dame Football with Dr. Ripp. Even after he retired, he would often make contact with me and other co-workers just to see how we were doing. Dr. Ripp was also a spiritual man as he and I had several spiritual conversations. With that being said, I'd like to finish this tribute with a scripture of something Jesus mentioned at the gospel of John 10:28, 29: "28 Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice 29 and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life..." When this happens, I hope to see Dr. Ripp again, as kind, happy and warm as he has ever been.

Hardy Moreno - November 30, 2017 at 11:31 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert L. Ripp.



November 30, 2017 at 08:54 AM