



Roger Carlson

April 19, 1937 - August 17, 2018

Roger Leland Carlson, 81 of Kearney, passed away on Friday, August 17, 2018 at Good Samaritan Society-St. Luke's in Kearney. Funeral services will be held on Saturday, August 25, 2018 at 9:30 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Kearney. Interment will be held following the services at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation is 6:00 to 8:00 pm Friday at the O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

Roger was born April 19, 1937 on a farm near Vermillion, South Dakota, to Ernest W. and Effie J. (Lundberg) Carlson. Roger grew up in a small Swedish farming community and attended Dalesburg Baptist church. He began his education at Newdale Country School and graduated from Beresford High School in 1955. Growing up he raised cattle and hogs, was active in 4-H and FFA, and loved to play sports.

In 1966 Roger met Karen M. Colwell. They were married just nine months later on June 10, 1967 in Fargo, North Dakota. They lived together in Worthington, Minnesota and Greeley, Colorado before moving to Kearney, Nebraska in 1970. Roger and Karen attended First Baptist Church, built an acreage outside of town, and raised their two sons; Ryan Roger and Clinton Cuy. Roger enjoyed serving in his church, raising cattle, watching his boys play sports, and traveling.

Roger was a Professor of Physical Science and Elementary Education at the University of NE- Kearney for 31 years. He received his Bachelor's degree at Bethel College in St. Paul, Minnesota, his Master's degree at the University of Florida, and his Doctorate at the University of Northern Colorado. Roger loved teaching and spent many years helping elementary and secondary teachers find imaginative ways to integrate science into their classrooms.

After his retirement in 2000, Roger enjoyed camping, exploring nature, spending time with family, watching his grandkids, and playing cards with friends. Each winter, Roger and Karen spent a month living in Fredericksburg, Texas where they enjoyed developing new friendships and hosting others.

Roger is survived by his loving wife, Karen; his children: Ryan Carlson and his wife, Marisa of Papillion, Nebraska, and Clinton Carlson and his wife, Melissa of Denton, Texas; his grandchildren: Kaelan, Keira, Trey, Cyrus and Ernst; sisters-in-law: Lorraine Carlson, Carol Carlson, June Brock and Joyce Bryant; brothers-in-law: Cuyler Colwell and his wife, Ruth, and Kim Colwell and his wife, Bev; as well as many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Roger was preceded by his parents; brothers: Lester, Donald, and Edward; his sisters: Eileen and Harriet; sister-in-law, Fran; and brothers-in-law: Glenn Anderson, Lee Stewart and Ernie Carlson.

Memorials in Roger's honor are suggested to First Baptist Church in Kearney or Dalesburg Baptist Church in Beresford, South Dakota.

Condolences may be shared online at 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

AUG 24. 6:00 PM - 8:00 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>

Funeral Service

AUG 25. 9:30 AM (CT)

First Baptist
1616 West 39th Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Tribute Wall



“ *Roger Carlson*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *To Karen and family--I, just today, sadly learned of Roger's passing as I was "surfing" through some memories related to those I knew at Kearney State College. I fondly remember Roger as a friend and colleague. We taught together in the Physical Science Department. I so remember Roger's humor and goodness. He was clearly a man of high quality who brought joy to all of us who worked with him. I always respected his upbeat way and the joy he had in making science more meaningful to his students. "The Carlsons" teaching then in the Physical Science Department were Donn, Roger and me (Gaylen Carlson). The three of us had great fun teaching and laughing and learning together. We all enjoyed our work and our times together. I especially want Karen-and his children- to know how much I liked Roger and how much I respected him as a husband, father and a teacher. He brought kindness and joy and goodness into our world.*

Gaylen R Carlson-retired Science Education/Geology professor at California State University-Fullerton.

Gaylen R Carlson - January 22, 2019 at 01:25 AM

LF

“ Dr. Carlson would come into the Curriculum Dept. at UNK library quite often to see what was new he could use for his classes. I'm sure he was a wonderful instructor and a caring and Godly man. RIP old friend.

Lavonne Fries

Lavonne Fries - August 27, 2018 at 11:52 AM

PH

“ I enjoyed getting to know Roger in cardiac rehab. He was a wonderful person . He will be missed by you for sure. I am glad I was able to know him. Prayers and blessings to all his family. —
Patty Henry

Patty Henry - August 25, 2018 at 02:40 AM

GP

“ Dear Mrs. Carlson,

We are very sorry to read about Dr. Carlson's recent passing. He was an outstanding individual and admired by many former students. I (George) had the privilege to be a student in Dr. Carlson's classes, to assist him with classes and workshops. He and of course Donn Carlson made me a better middle school science teacher showed me how to do hands-on science. One of the greatest compliments that Dr. Carlson said to me, "I could always tell when students from Arapahoe Schools were in my classes, because they knew how to do labs and write up lab reports. I knew George had taught them."

Thank you Dr. Carlson, you were one of the best. May the peace of the Lord be with your family as they celebrate your life. You have left me with many fond and scientifically proven memories.

In Christ we are,

*George and Gayla Probasco
1102 Cherry Street
Arapahoe, NE 68922*

George Probasco - August 24, 2018 at 10:40 PM

JR

“ Dear Karen and family, Millie and I are so sorry to hear of Roger's passing. My thoughts go to our early years in Kearney when we played "fast-pitch" softball together with other Kearney State colleagues then to the years when we traveled to NSF project director meetings and finally to visits over coffee at Pane Bella and Panera. To say that Roger was a one of a kind all around good man is an understatement.

Jim and Millie Roark

Jim Roark - August 23, 2018 at 07:46 PM

KT

“ Karen,
Tom and I were sorry to hear of Roger's passing, but so thankful for the love of Christ he lived out so faithfully! His wonderful teaching, friendship and sense of humor will always be precious memories we will have of him. Our prayers are with you all.

Tom and Kerry Thompson

Kerry Thompson - August 23, 2018 at 05:47 PM



“ Roger was one of my professors at UNK and Ryan and I were in the same classes together. Roger was a great teacher. He will be missed.

Machelle Winkler Havenridge - August 22, 2018 at 04:42 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Roger Carlson.*



August 22, 2018 at 10:03 AM



“ *Friends with whom we grew up - were in Sunday School, youth groups together and knew all of our families - it is hard to let go. Old memories are precious and the best. Dalesburg Baptist was our connection....and we treasure those memories. He is at rest where we will meet again someday. . My sympathy to his family and friends.*

Annette (Gustad) Norberg - Highlands Ranch, CO

Annette Norberg - August 21, 2018 at 08:19 PM



“ *Karen and boys - My thoughts and prayers are with you during this time of loss. Roger and your whole family are a big part of the memories that I have from growing up on Avenue F. I know that my parents missed both of you greatly after you moved out of the neighborhood. Prayers - Janet Luedke.*

Janet Luedke - August 21, 2018 at 04:03 PM



“ *Roger was one of my favorite professors in college. I enjoyed seeing him sitting on the porch across from Kenwood School. Rest in Peace.*

Janice Polk - August 21, 2018 at 03:40 PM

PP

“ Roger was definitely a fine godly man always treating others as he would want treated. Loved his smile and sense of humor. God has definitely obtained an angel.

Karen and family- hugs and prayers from Dean and Pat Pennington-Laguna Vista TX

Pat Pennington - August 21, 2018 at 02:08 PM

MU

“ I took classes (post-graduate) for my science teaching endorsements at Kearney State College in the early 1980's. Roger and Don Carlson were the foundation of the Physics department at that time. Both were devoted to their teaching and producing good science teachers.

I taught a few introductory classes in the department and Roger was a good friend and a wonderful person! I miss him!

Mark Urwiller - formerly of Kearney (KHS), now in O'Neill Ne.

Mark Urwiller - August 21, 2018 at 11:31 AM