



Roger Traphagan

November 27, 1941 - March 6, 2025

Roger Traphagan, 83, passed away on March 6th, 2025 at Brookstone Gardens in Kearney, NE. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 a.m., Friday, March 28th at O'Brien Straatman Redinger Funeral Home. There will be no visitation.

Memorials are suggested to the Parkinson's Foundation or to the Kearney Area Animal Shelter. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Service are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Roger Kay Traphagan was born in Omaha, NE on November 27, 1941 to Henry and Lois (Nicholas) Traphagan. Roger took delight in the fact that he was born on Thanksgiving, although Christmas would always be his favorite holiday. Roger was a true "war baby" and was brought home from the hospital on December 7, 1941. In 1942 the family moved to Aurora, CO where Henry was inducted into the service. During this time Roger and his mother lived with his Grandparents, Dora and Jim Denney. Roger formed a special bond with his Grandfather who taught him to fish and gave him his first Schwinn bicycle, probably awakening his interest in all things with wheels. However, Roger was most excited about his grandfather's Irish Setter dog, Bitti and her puppies. He would tell the tale of Bitti birthing her puppies to anyone who would listen. This sparked Roger's genuine love of animals, especially dogs. Roger was the

oldest of three sons and in 1950 the family moved to Ft. Collins, CO where his brother Ricky was born. The family lived in several cities along the front range and Roger's youngest brother Terry was born in Loveland, CO.

In Roger's Senior year of high school the family returned to Ft. Collins, CO and Roger graduated from Ft. Collins High School in 1960. In high school Roger enjoyed wood shop but his real interest was his girlfriend Dianna and cruising College Ave in his car. Roger met Dianna Tresler, the love of his life, at a young age in Sunday School. They were sweethearts in high school and married on June 18, 1961. They would make their home in Ft. Collins where they would be blessed with a daughter, Jodi and a son, Jeff. An array of pets would complete their family. Roger enjoyed taking his family camping in the mountains but his real love was cruising in his cars. Most weekends would include some type of a road trip, often in the foothills or to visit family but many times the destination was wherever the open road would lead.

While in Ft. Collins Roger was employed at International Harvester (IH) where he worked his way up to become the Parts Manager. In 1968 Roger would leave IH to pursue his dream and become an Owner/Operator of an Exxon gas station. Roger truly enjoyed owning/working his Exxon station and would later say this was his favorite position. In 1976 Roger relocated his family to Kearney, NE where he purchased and became Owner/Operator of a Snap on Tools business. Roger was well known by most every shop owner and their employees in the Kearney area. When Roger sold his Snap on Tool business he took a year off and then purchased a Big A Auto Parts store, which he owned and operated until 1988. Roger knew the parts business best and he worked for K&K Auto Parts and later was employed at the Kearney NAPA Parts Store for 23 years until he retired on 12/31/2019.

When Roger moved to Nebraska he became a fan of "Big Red" football but always remained a true Denver Bronco fan. Roger liked the thrill of the live

football games but most fall weekends were spent watching the Denver Broncos on TV because after all that is the best seat in the house.

Roger was a car enthusiast! In 1963, he purchased a 1962 409 Chevy Impala. It was his favorite car. The one he wished never would have gotten away. In 1994, he was able to revise that dream when he found an identical car in Texas. Roger cherished the time he spent with his son Jeff restoring the 1962 Chevy Impala to mint condition. This car is a testament to his passion for adventure, meticulously maintained and filled with memories. One of his friends said, "It is more than a car, it was his pride and joy, a symbol of his spirit and the life he loved."

Roger was a devoted father and friend. He was kind-hearted and a genuinely good person. Roger was friendly, supportive, sincere and witty. He was known by his NAPA friends as the, "heavy duty guy". Roger enjoyed spending his time with family, friends, children and puppies. He liked a hot cup of coffee and a good conversation. Roger's favorite holiday was Christmas and he had the Santa Clause collection to prove it. When Roger wasn't watching football or talking "shop talk" he liked to spend time with his dog Zoltan and especially, enjoyed visiting with his grandchildren, Mattie and Tanner.

Roger lived the last several years of his life at Brookstone Gardens where he met new friends. Despite having a debilitating disease Roger faced his life with dignity and grace. He participated in most all activities and provided support to all those around him. Roger didn't know a stranger. He found value in every person and was loved by everyone who met him. Roger's life is an example of compassion and strength. He will be greatly missed.

Left to cherish Roger's memories are his daughter, Jodi Sowl of Kearney, NE; son, Jeff Traphagan and special friend, Bobbi Tavner of Kearney;

granddaughter, Mattie Traphagan of Kearney; grandson, Tanner Traphagan of Lincoln; brothers, Rick Traphagan of Loveland, CO and Terry (Diane) Traphagan of McCook, NE; and his German Shepherd, Zoltan.

Roger was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Dianna Traphagan; his granddaughter, Jenny Lynn Sowl; and his sister-in-law, Susan Traphagan.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 28. 11:00 AM (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>

Tribute Wall

DH

“ *The Nicest Guy in the world ! You will be very much missed Roger, I never forgot the help you and Jeff provided at The Big A parts store with my 1965 coronet 500 and other cars I had issues with and ether couldn't figure out. The last time I saw you was when I sold Jeff my 1964 El Camino best E.T./speed for was high 10's@ 122mph and met you guys half way Roger To deliver the car, you and Jeff had the relationship I always wanted with my father. Just the nicest guy/people the world needs more people like you. I lost contact with you guys and not on purpose. I will never forget the help you guys provided when I moved from Kearney to loveland,co in 1988.I really miss the kind conversations and all that dam knowledge about cars you had a very big Thank you for sharing some of your time and knowledge over the years with me.God Speed Rodger enjoy your 1962 409 in heaven. Dave Huber 970-290-6847.* ”



dave huber - April 30, 2025 at 02:27 PM



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



March 27, 2025 at 02:45 PM

MS

“ *Melissa Stuehm purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Roger Traphagan.*



Melissa Stuehm - March 26, 2025 at 10:24 PM

LW

“ *I just wanted to say that Roger’s obituary was Beautifully wrote & knowing him plus the family every word brought back all the memories I wrote about earlier. I so miss him even though I haven’t seen him often*



Larry Winzenried - March 17, 2025 at 09:45 PM

BT

“ *Roger holds a special place in the hearts of all of us at Brookestone Gardens Therapy. It was a pleasure to have had the opportunity to know and care for him. He will be remembered for his patient and kind demeanor, and his work ethic to meet his goals.*

BSG Therapy - March 17, 2025 at 03:15 PM

ER

“ *Roger you were such a wonderful, loving and kind person. You were a great father and a wonderful grandfather. Last couple of years has been difficult for you. But, you were always upbeat and enjoyed seeing people. It’s a great loss for your loved ones. Sam and I will always remember our visits with you and treasure our friendship.*

Ella and Sam Rathod - March 16, 2025 at 05:27 PM

LA

“ *Lisa Anderson purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Roger Traphagan.*



Lisa Anderson - March 16, 2025 at 12:28 PM

LW

“ *There is so many memories of Rodger as our families were very close, there was a 1957 Plymouth Station wagon that he got from my family and put a new engine in it after i disassembled most of the old engine after i spun a bearing. Rick & I enjoyed going to drag races in Cheyenne riding in the Blue Chevy 409 Impala with Diane & Rodger. Rodger had the Exxon gas station on Mulberry and Mason where he was always busy. I feel for your whole family at this time as emotions are with me, with his passing.*
Larry Winzenried



Larry L Winzenried - March 13, 2025 at 03:50 PM



Thank you for sharing your memories Larry. Jodi ❤️

Jodi Sowl - March 13, 2025 at 11:36 PM

LW

You did so much for Roger sorry I can't make the service

Larry Winzenried - March 17, 2025 at 09:49 PM

PJ

“ *Patty Johnson lit a candle in memory of Roger Traphagan*



Patty Johnson - March 10, 2025 at 08:18 PM