



Thomas E. Bettles

April 25, 1949 - September 2, 2025

Thomas Eugene Bettles, 76, of Kearney, passed away peacefully at home on September 2, 2025, surrounded by his family.

He was born on April 25, 1949, in Herington, Kansas, to Orval and Mary Bettles. Tom graduated from Herington High School in 1967, earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics from McPherson College in 1973, and a Master of Science in Environmental Technology from Kansas State University in 1977. On June 16, 1979, he married Jane Mahloch, and together they built a loving family.

Tom worked for 39 years as a lab technician for the City of Kearney, where he was admired for his dedication and hard work. In his free time, he enjoyed bike riding, fishing, playing pitch, and following the weather. Above all, he loved spending time with his grandchildren and attending their activities.

A man of strong faith, Tom was a longtime parishioner of both St. James Catholic Church and Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Kearney.

He is survived by his wife, Jane of Kearney; his children Elizabeth Dongoski (Joseph) of Manhattan, KS, John Bettles (Amy) of Kearney, NE, Catherine Moyer (Christopher) of Goessel, KS, and Sarah Bisbee (Aaron) of Hildreth, NE; grandchildren Felicity Dongoski, Addilyn, Macie, and Colton Bettles,

Danica and Raymond Moyer, and Madelynne Bisbee. He is also survived by his siblings Connie Beemer (Roger) of Herington, KS, Larry Bettles (Susan) of Herington, KS, and Ginny Woodruff (Steve) of Greeley, CO, along with many nieces, nephews, and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his infant child Chris, and his infant grandson Theodore.

A funeral Mass will be held 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, September 9, 2025 at St. James Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Kearney Cemetery. The family will receive friends 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Monday at the church followed by a 7:00 p.m. vigil prayer service.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. 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

Family receiving friends

SEP 8. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Vigil / Prayer Service

SEP 8. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Funeral Mass

SEP 9. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall

PC

“ *To: Larry, Susan and the Bettles' Family! We are expressing our "Sincere Deepest Heartfelt Sympathy" due to the loss of Thomas. "For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone" (Psalm 91:11-12). May God strengthen you and keep you in His comforting care.*

Pastor James and Linda Callaway

Pastor James & Linda Callaway - September 12, 2025 at 07:02 PM

SO

“ *Sonny O'Connor lit a candle in memory of Thomas E. Bettles*



Sonny O'Connor - September 09, 2025 at 02:29 PM

KR

“ *Jane and family,*

So sorry for your loss. My prayers are with you. May God give you peace and comfort in His time.

Kimberly Rebman - September 09, 2025 at 01:13 AM

RD

“ So sorry to hear of the loss of your Dad, father-in-law and Grandfather Sarah, Aaron and Maddie. Thoughts and prayers for your entire family during this difficult time. If you need anything please let us know. Rick Halcott and Connie Dorsey.



Rick Halcott and Connie Dorsey - September 07, 2025 at 03:40 PM

JW

“ Tom was my best ever friend. I met him at Kansas Technical Institute (KTI). He has been a good friend ever since.

Jerome Womack - September 06, 2025 at 06:23 PM

DR

“ Tom and I were homework buddies. I believe we started this in the 6th grade when I was laid up for a couple of weeks after a horse related injury and we carried on thru high school , calling each other to compare math results. Tom was always what I considered a dear friend. If our math results didnt match, his was usually the correct one..Deannie Elliott Rule

Deannie Elliott Rule - September 03, 2025 at 08:40 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Bettles.



September 03, 2025 at 07:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Thomas E. Bettles.

September 02, 2025 at 10:29 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Thomas E. Bettles.



September 02, 2025 at 10:29 PM