



Wendell L. Hansen

November 21, 1942 - December 7, 2023

Wendell Hansen, 81 of Axtell, NE passed away Thursday, December 7, 2023 at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. A celebration of life will be 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, December 13, 2023 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. Inurnment will be at a later date.

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.

Wendell was born in Hastings, NE to Orville and Gladys (Nicholls) Hansen. He lived in Hastings, Juniata and Bladen. He graduated from Bladen High School in 1961 in a class of 7. In high school, Wendell took part in all the sports. His entire life he talked about winning the 6 man state football championship and his special buddies Rollie and Bob. He loved to run the 880 and enjoyed his runs at the area schools but especially the State Track meet where he was state champion at the 880. It meant so much to him that all three of his grandchildren excelled in track, cross country, basketball and volleyball. He was also proud of their grades. The last few years he loved watching Big Red Volleyball. He attended college in Kearney and business school in Lincoln. In 1963, he married his high school love, Sherri Bates. They had one daughter, Amber.

Wendell had a variety of jobs during his working years. He especially liked his jobs as maintenance supervisor in Bethphage and Franklin Nursing Home. When people talk about Wendell they would ask “What is he up to now?” “What trouble is he making?” He loved to tease and play jokes. “Fun” was his middle name. When he lost his fun spark a few years ago, it was truly missed.

Wendell was a people person, loved to visit with friends or strangers. He loved family, kids and animals. He like dogs and they liked him. They would sit on his lap and lick his face. Wendell had a big interest in kids and 4-H as he helped start two new clubs in the area. He took pride in his sheep and working with Amber as she showed them at many events. He loved being a part of the State and County fairs. Oh, the stories he could tell.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 60 years, Sherri; daughter, Amber and her husband, Shanon; three grandchildren, Caleb, Magnolia and Isaiah; sister-in-law, Debra Hansen; and 2 nieces; and nephews.

Wendell was preceded in death by his parents; in-laws Ray and Goldie Bates; brother Don Hansen and an infant niece

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

DEC 13. 11:00 AM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations

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<https://www.osrfh.com>

Tribute Wall

NB

“ I send my condolences. I remember Wendell and his fellow high school athletes who were heroes. They seemed so much bigger than life. I remember the Black and Orange letter jackets with the State Football Champs. I was only in the elementary grades but they were awesome. So sorry for your loss, Sherri, you were a great piano teacher. You had so much patience. Neil Van Boening

Neil Van Boening - December 15, 2023 at 12:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Wendell L. Hansen.

December 12, 2023 at 12:27 PM

CM

“ Sure will miss that goofy face he made everytime he teased Amber. He was such a great Dad. Brian and I send our love and condolences.

Crystal Moody - December 11, 2023 at 10:20 PM

NA

“ Wendell was one of the best coworkers ever! He could make work so fun! He will be missed by many. Nancy Corrente

Nancy - December 10, 2023 at 10:02 AM

TA

“ *What wonderful memories you will have a life well lived. Please know you are all in our prayers. Tammev & Gene*



Tammev - December 09, 2023 at 08:55 PM

BL

“ *Thoughts and prayers are with you.*



Beth Lobner - December 09, 2023 at 12:35 PM

CC

Sending love and prayers for Sherri and family. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Claudia Cooke - December 10, 2023 at 05:57 PM

BK

*Sherry and family,
I am so sorry to hear about Wendell. I just now found out that he had passed away. When I look back at my day's at Mosaic, you and Wendell always come to mind. You were both a big part of my good times there and I cherish the time spent working for you and with Wendell. You have touched my life in many ways, over the years. They were fun filled hours that we were lucky enough to spend with people we loved and cherished. My Love and Prayers are with you, Amber and the rest of your family. He was truly, one in a million and will be missed by so many! Hug's to you my Dear Friend!*

Barb King - January 01, 2024 at 02:55 PM