



## Daniel "Dan" A. Speirs

May 9, 1953 - March 20, 2023

Dan Speirs, 69, of Kearney died Monday, March 20, 2023, at UNMC-Nebraska Medicine in Omaha. Memorial Mass will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, March 24, 2023 at Prince of Peace Catholic Church in Kearney with Fr. Paul Colling officiating. Visitation will be 5:30-7 p.m. Thursday at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral Home with a wake service at 7:00 pm.

He was born May 9, 1953 in Alliance to Walter and Lola Speirs. He was the eldest of five siblings and grew up on a farm near Hay Springs. His fondest childhood memories are playing in the huge canyon they had as a backyard.

He attended District 44 Country School and graduated from Hay Springs High School in 1971. He married Jolene Peters in Hay Springs and they were blessed with the birth of a son Christopher in 1971.

He served in the Army from 1974 to 1977 stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado. After his honorable discharge from the Army he moved to Kearney and earned a degree in journalism from Kearney State College (UNK) in 1981

Dan began his 40-year career in the newspaper business in 1977 at the Kearney Hub working in the circulation department where he met his wife Julie Ignowski who was working in the advertising department. It led to a dual 40-year newspaper career and marriage. After earning his degree he moved

to the news department and began writing, editing and never missing a deadline. In 1995 he moved to Columbus and worked at the Columbus Telegram moving back to Kearney in 2000. On Dec. 22, 2017 he retired from the Kearney Hub as the assistant managing editor. Highlights of his career include leading the news coverage of the 2008 tornado. He also had a key role in coverage of President Bill Clinton's visit to Kearney in 2000.

He was involved in a variety of community organizations. He was a mentor and president for more than 30 years of The Friends Program in both Kearney and Columbus. Through the years adults whom he had mentored as youths called to thank him for his positive influence in their lives.

He loved history, especially the history of Buffalo County. He was the board president of the Buffalo County Historical Society and chaired the committee that built the Family History Center. To help preserve part of Kearney's history, he served on the World Theatre restoration board. He served on the Kearney Area Community Foundation Board.

One of his greatest joys was to prepare a gourmet dinner for his dinner club friends of 20 years and share a good glass of wine.

In August 2022 he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. He fought a hard battle, always with a positive attitude.

Dan is survived by his wife Julie of Kearney; sister Valerie and Doug Worth of Parker, Colorado and their children Emily, Savannah and Trevor; brothers Tim and Deann of Chappell and their children Payton and Anna, Mike and Candy of Howells and their children Paige and Alex, Pat of Hay Springs; and sister- and brother- in-law Christine and Robert Makowski of Lincoln and their children Elizabeth and Roberta and Justin Koelzer; nieces Amy and Audrey Ignowski of Lenexa, Kansas and Adam and Elesa Ignowski of Towanda,

Kansas.

He was preceded in death by his son, Christopher; his parents Walter and Lola Speirs, his in-laws Chris and Lucille Ignowski, and brother-in-law Bill Ignowski.

Memorials are suggested to The Friends Program, Trails & Rails Museum or the Kearney Area Community Foundation.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR **23**. 5:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl  
2421 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 237-2259  
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

## Wake Service

MAR **23**. 7:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl  
2421 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 237-2259  
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

## Memorial Mass

MAR **24**. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

AH

“ Julie,  
Burrell and I are so very sorry for your loss. We are stuck here at the ranch as we are calving but our thoughts and prayers are very much with you during this difficult time. Hugs and prayers.  
Andrea and Burrell Hughes

---

**Andrea Hughes** - March 24, 2023 at 07:20 PM

JL

“ My deepest condolences Julie, I am very sorry for your loss.

---

**John Lilly** - March 24, 2023 at 10:49 AM

DG

“ So sorry to hear of Dan's passing. I think often of the Kearney Hub family, what a great group! Dan was such a hard worker and a really skilled journalist. All the best to Julie, you'll be in our thoughts and prayers during this challenging time. We wish you the best! Dan & Kathy Grassmeyer

---

**Dan Grassmeyer** - March 23, 2023 at 08:12 PM

LS

“ Julie, I was saddened to read that Dan had passed away. You are certainly in my thoughts and prayers.  
Lois Snyder

---

**Lois Snyder** - March 23, 2023 at 08:11 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Daniel "Dan" A. Speirs.*



---

March 23, 2023 at 04:20 PM



“ *Julie, June and I were greatly saddened by the news. Dan was a truly a gift to us all. He will truly be missed by those his life has touched.*  
*June and Todd Porter*

---

**Todd Porter** - March 23, 2023 at 03:06 PM



“ *Julie I was so sorry to hear about Dan's battle with cancer and his death. May the loving arms of Jesus surround you and give you peace in all this sorrow 😞*  
*Joyce (Lonowski) Jacobsen*

---

**Joyce Jacobsen** - March 22, 2023 at 05:19 PM

DF

“ I'll never forget the Easter Dan wanted to give Julie live baby ducks. Julie, Dan and I worked together at the Hub for many years. In our earlier days, Julie and I lived in the same big white house on 23rd Street and she and Dan lived there after they were married. I had also gotten married and had moved to the farm where my husband lived. Dan wanted to make sure he had somewhere to take those ducks when they got too big for their apartment and I said we'd be happy to take them to the farm when the time came. I'm pretty sure the ducks spent much time swimming in their bathtub. My husband built a rather large fenced enclosure for the ducks and they came to live with us. I don't think they lasted more than 3 days before some critter had them for lunch .... But Dan and I told Julie they had gone to summer camp and were just fine! Julie always pretended she believed that story. Dan and I weren't copywriters for nothing. We've lost a good friend. Our thoughts and prayer are with you Julie.

---

**Diane Feldman** - March 22, 2023 at 03:42 PM

LO

“ Julie and family, so sorry to hear of Dan's passing. Thinking of you all at this time!  
Larry O

---

**Larry Ossenkop** - March 22, 2023 at 02:52 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Daniel "Dan" A. Speirs.



---

March 22, 2023 at 12:34 PM

JG

“ Julie and family- The Friends Program is deeply saddened to learn of Dan's passing. His work and advocacy for the program and the community was admirable. We will miss him more than words can express. As you know he cared deeply about the mission and fearlessly led our agency as Board President for decades. We will honor Dan's legacy by keeping his kindness and generosity in the forefront of our daily work. We are so grateful to have known him. Please know that you are in our thoughts. - Jalin (Friends Program)

Jalin Gerdes - March 22, 2023 at 11:55 AM

EO

“ My sympathies to Julie and family. "Gone too soon" is more than a cliché.

Ed and Kathy OToole - March 21, 2023 at 10:08 PM

TD

“ The Friends Program Board of Directors purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Daniel "Dan" A. Speirs.



The Friends Program Board of Directors - March 21, 2023 at 06:07 PM

JA

“ Julie I am so sorry to learn of Dan's passing. He was always so kind to me whether we bumped into each other at the World Theatre or elsewhere. Kearney lost a gentle man. Jimmi Ann Anderson

Jimmi Ann Anderson - March 21, 2023 at 04:48 PM

BT

“ *BP GoM Wells Operations Teams purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Daniel "Dan" A. Speirs.*



---

**BP GoM Wells Operations Teams** - March 21, 2023 at 01:01 PM