



## Ed J. O'Brien

September 27, 1975 - November 28, 2025

Ed J. O'Brien, 50, of Kearney, passed away November 28, 2025, at C.H.I. Health Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 am, December 5, 2025, at Prince of Peace Catholic Church followed by burial at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation with the family will be from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, December 4, 2025, at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Eagle Excellence Football Fund at Chadron State, Kearney Catholic High School Foundation, or Kearney Public School Foundation for Kenwood Elementary School.

Ed O'Brien was born, September 27, 1975, in Alexandria, Virginia to James and Reva (Saunders) O'Brien. The family moved to Grand Island in 1977. Ed graduated from Grand Island Central Catholic High School in 1994 and then attended Dana College in Blair.

Ed married his high school sweetheart, Denise Preusser, on August 5, 2000, in Grand Island, Nebraska. Together, they built a home filled with love, friendship, and laughter—first in Grand Island and later in Kearney, where they moved in 2009. Becoming a father to Logan and Caleb was Ed's greatest joy, and he devoted himself to supporting his boys in every way.

In 2019, Ed discovered his true calling working with youth—first at Y.R.T.C. in

Kearney and most recently at Kenwood Elementary School as the In-School Suspension (ISS) Coordinator. He had a gift for connecting with kids and never hesitated to offer encouragement, guidance, or a dose of humor. Whether mentoring students or offering advice, Ed made young people feel seen and valued.

Ed served as President of the Kearney Catholic High School Activities Association and coached countless youth teams through Kearney Little League, Kearney Youth Football League, the YMCA, and travel teams. Coaching wasn't just a hobby for Ed—it was how he built relationships, shaped character, and supported the next generation. Ed was an avid collector of sports memorabilia, proudly supporting his Washington Redskins and Nebraska Cornhuskers.

Ed is survived by his wife, Denise O'Brien of Kearney, sons, Logan and Caleb O'Brien of Kearney, father, Jim O'Brien of Grand Island, sister Tonia (Tim) Luschei of Central City, NE, sister in law, Michelle (Tim) Winkelmann of Seward, NE, brother in law, Scott (Amy) Preusser of Evans, GA, father and mother in law Joe (Therese) Preusser of Elkhorn, NE, niece, nephews, aunts, and uncles.

Ed was preceded in death by his mother.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 4. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

KB

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Many blessings to you and your family, you are in my thoughts and prayers. Kim Beran

Kim Beran - January 06 at 02:21 PM

MB

“ I was blessed to have worked with Ed at YRTC. He was a wonderful human being and the world will miss him dearly

Mitch Bydalek - December 20, 2025 at 12:55 PM

TF

“ The Edeal Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ed J. O'Brien.

The Edeal Family - December 05, 2025 at 11:46 AM

TF

“ The Edeal Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.



The Edeal Family - December 05, 2025 at 11:46 AM

MW

“ Mike and Lori Winkelmann planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ed J. O'Brien.

Mike and Lori Winkelmann - December 04, 2025 at 03:15 PM

MW

“ Mike and Lori Winkelmann purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.



Mike and Lori Winkelmann - December 04, 2025 at 03:15 PM

ER

“ Erin R. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ed J. O'Brien.

Erin R. - December 04, 2025 at 10:22 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.



December 04, 2025 at 10:22 AM

SW

“ Suzanne Whisler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ed J. O'Brien.

Suzanne Whisler - December 04, 2025 at 07:42 AM

SW

“ Suzanne Whisler purchased the Forever Our Angel Bouquet for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.



Suzanne Whisler - December 04, 2025 at 07:42 AM

CL

“ I will miss you Mr OBrian you were one of my favorite teachers you alwase made me smile❤️☐ Cathena Linden

cathena linden - December 03, 2025 at 07:06 PM

GF

“ Grand Auto Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.



Grand Auto Family - December 03, 2025 at 06:50 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.



December 03, 2025 at 01:04 PM

AO

“ Agnes Otto planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ed J. O'Brien.

Agnes Otto - December 03, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.*



December 03, 2025 at 09:40 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.*



December 02, 2025 at 11:55 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.*



December 02, 2025 at 11:05 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.*



December 02, 2025 at 10:24 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.



December 01, 2025 at 11:32 PM



“ Tim, Sherra, Tim Jr, Sunshine, Shiloh M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ed J. O'Brien.

Tim, Sherra, Tim Jr, Sunshine, Shiloh M. - December 01, 2025 at 11:32 PM



“ Gary & Tanya, Aaron & Madison Golka purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Ed J. O'Brien.



Gary & Tanya, Aaron & Madison Golka - November 30, 2025 at 05:56 PM



“ Gary & Tanya, Aaron & Madison Golka planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ed J. O'Brien.

Gary & Tanya, Aaron & Madison Golka - November 30, 2025 at 05:56 PM

BK

“ *Just wanting you to know you and your boys are in our thoughts and prayers! Love Bobbi and Bert Kirkpatrick*

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**Bobbi Kirkpatrick** - November 30, 2025 at 04:37 PM