



## Merle L. Riege

April 4, 1945 - September 17, 2024

Merle L. Riege, 79, of Kearney, passed away on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at the Kearney Regional Medical Center. Services will be on Friday, September 27, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney. Burial will follow at the Kearney Cemetery with military honors provided by the Kearney American Legion Post #52, the Kearney V.F.W. Post #759 and the United States Navy Funeral Honors Team. The family will host a reception at the Yanney Park Pavilion (Gayle and Michael Yanney building) near the senior center following graveside services on Friday. Visitation with family will be on Thursday, September 26, 2024 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to The Nebraska Veterans Home, VFW, Kearney Volunteer Fire Department or Gibbon Volunteer Fire Department. The family request if using a check, please write out directly to the organization or to Barb Riege. Please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Merle was born on April 4, 1945 in Kearney, Nebraska to Edmund A. and Thekla (Ohlmann) Riege. He attended Kearney High School and graduated in 1963. He joined the United States Navy in 1965 and served his country during the Vietnam War, eventually being discharged from active duty in 1969. He married Barbara Pemberton on December 22, 1973 in Kearney. Merle and

Barbara have farmed East of Kearney for many years.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Barbara of Kearney; daughters, Tracy (Tony) Palmieri of Gibbon and Cammy Riege (Rick) of Sioux Center, Iowa; Granddaughter, Kaylee of Bella Vista, Arkansas; Brother, LaVerne Riege of Washington; numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

Merle was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Wilbur, Delmer, Arthur and Ivan; sisters-in-law, Janet Riege and Betty Riege and nephew, David Riege.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 26. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

## Memorial Service

SEP 27. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

CL

“ Dear Barb and family,  
I am so sorry to learn about Merle's passing. As you know, Merle and I go way, way back to the Zion Lutheran Sunday school and church days. I was the only girl in the Sunday school class, and the boys teased me unmercifully--except Merle. What a kind kid! What a gentle man he turned out to be. I treasure the times I was able to reconnect with him at class reunions, the most recent one, in fact, as well as meet you. I am thinking about you at this sad time.  
Sincerely, --Carol (Schmidt) Lomicky

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**Carol Lomicky** - September 27, 2024 at 03:50 PM

MB

“ Melody B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Merle L. Riege.

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**Melody B.** - September 26, 2024 at 06:04 PM

ML

“ Mike and Lisa Luther purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Merle L. Riege.



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**Mike and Lisa Luther** - September 24, 2024 at 08:06 PM