



## Richard 'Dick' W. Collins

November 11, 1947 - January 19, 2021

Richard 'Dick' Wayne Collins, age 73, of Kearney, passed away peacefully Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at Kearney Regional Medical Center due to complications of COVID-19. Memorial services will be 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 25, 2021 at Living Faith Fellowship Church in Kearney with Pastor Paul Stachura officiating. Due to COVID-19 restrictions and social distancing requirements, the maximum capacity for the church will be 250 people. The service will be available online to watch on the livingfaithfellowshipkearney Facebook page. Interment will take place at a later date at Fort McPherson National Cemetery with military honors graveside. Visitation will be 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sunday, January 24, 2021 at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral Home. A memorial has been established to the Living Faith Fellowship Church or the NU Foundation in creation of Dick Collins Memorial Scholarship at UNK. If the scholarship is chosen, please make the check to NU Foundation and include Dick Collins Memorial on the memo line. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services are in charge of arrangements.

Dick was born November 11, 1947 in Broken Bow, Nebraska as an only child to Wayne Wallace and Mabel Margaret Collins. Dick's family moved to Ord, Nebraska while in 2nd grade and Dick graduated from Ord in 1966. He married the love of his life, Shirley L. Johnson on July 12, 2014 after many years of bachelorhood. They loved attending UNK functions, their Church,

Living Fellowship, and being with family and friends.

Dick was the Equipment Manager at UNK for 38 years (1976-2013) he mentored many student and athletes. His ability to listen, talk and remember each name was a gift. He loved everything about sports and rarely missed a game before and after his retirement in 2013. He began his career as a student assistant in 1967, before heading to the US Navy. He returned to UNK in 1975 and graduating a year later with a BS Degree in Recreation, he was responsible for outfitting all Loper teams, which numbered 10 when he began at then-Kearney State. With the advent of women's sports, the number then grew to 17. On September 27, 2015 he was inducted into the University of Nebraska Kearney Athletic Hall of Fame. He was a member of the Athletic Equipment Manager's Association (AEMA) since its inception in 1976 and after 38 years he became a lifetime member. In 1990, he helped design the current equipment room now housed on the ground floor of the Health and Sports Center, where you will see the dedication plaque in his name. He was so honored and proud.

Dick loved his sweets, candy and Diet Dr Pepper! He loved to share his goodies with anyone that would stop by to visit. He would always stock everyone's favorite!

His life was a living example of his Love of the Lord, he prayed EVERY single day in his Prayer Room, he read the Bible to Shirley every night, therefore, read it to its entirety at least 3 times. As of late, he would read books to Shirley and once in a while, while reading, you would see a tear slide down his face, he was so tenderhearted.

Dick is survived by his wife, Shirley, 3 stepchildren (whom he claimed as his own) daughter Cindy and her husband Kim Johnson - Wilcox, Scott and his wife Kathy Johnson - Kearney and Brad and his wife Diane Johnson - Omaha,

9 Grandchildren and 13 Great Grandchildren. Brothers Rick Dunbar and his wife Chris - Eustis, Nick Aquino and his wife Malena - Maryland, Sisters Bev Cook and her husband Gene - Lincoln, Janice Kooiker and her husband Clayton - Le Mars, IA, JoAnne Dunbar - Lincoln, Nephews Dave Runge and his wife Rhea - Yankton, Paul Runge and his Wife Carol - Colorado, Niece Sally Runge - North Platte, Great Nephew Sean Runge and his wife Patty - Lincoln, Great Great Nephew Jacob Runge and his wife Courtney - Omaha, Great Great Niece Ashley Runge - Kearney and many many others whom he loved dearly.

As Dick would say "GO LOPERS" - please feel free to honor him by wearing UNK Lopers Attire!!

# Cemetery Details

## Ft. McPherson National Cemetery

12004 South Spur 56 A  
Maxwell, NE 69151

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **24**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

## Memorial Service

JAN **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Living Faith Fellowship Church  
3311 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

## Graveside Service

MAR **26**. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Ft. McPherson National Cemetery  
12004 South Spur 56 A  
Maxwell, NE 69151



# Tribute Wall



“ *Richard 'Dick' W. Collins*

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January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Shirley, I'm so glad that God brought the two of you together, but of course wish you could have had more years together. I always enjoyed visiting with Dick and sharing some Ord Junior High memories. Our prayers continue for you and family.*

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**Ila Ballou** - January 25, 2021 at 01:39 PM



“ *Shirley: My condolences on the passing of your husband. I spent many hours talking with Dick before and after Loper games over the years when I would come back from Elkhorn. I will especially remember all the times I spent with him at basketball camps over the years. I would come in every morning to get my laundry and we would talk about everything and anything, but especially old Loper stories. I have carried in my football playbook a picture of Dick from his induction into the Hall of Fame. May God bless and comfort you during this time of mourning.*

*John Bacus*

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**John Bacus** - January 24, 2021 at 10:58 PM

AT

“ To my friend of over 60 years, you will be missed. To Dick's family, I am so sorry for your loss and my prayers are with you. Your picture and especially your smile has brought back so many memories of the years we spent together at OHS. Our class reunions will be diminished with your absence. You were one of the memory keepers for our class and the person we could count on to keep classmates informed. I will remember you with more memories than I could possibly related. The little notes you left in my desk in 9th grade English class for a whole year. The dances and parties. the pitch games, the smiles in the hallway between classes, you coaching the girls' football team our senior year, serving as class officers together, and the quiet talks and the knowledge that you were there to support all of your classmates. You were a special person and I will miss you.

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**Annalee Calver Tvrdik** - January 24, 2021 at 07:13 PM



“ Dick was very special to me and I will miss him so..... Dick and I met when I was an assistant to the women's basketball program in the late 80's -early 90's and also when I worked at Misko Sports. Always loved our visits and he always gave me big hugs whenever we saw each other.. I am so happy that he found you Shirley----you are were his soulmate.

*Prayers to you*

*Susie Bielenberg*

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**Susie Reed Bielenberg** - January 24, 2021 at 02:36 PM

DB

“ To Shirley and others. I have known Dick for some time. His marriage to Shirley was probably the best thing that happened to him and Shirley. He was very dedicated to his job and made many life long friends, He was very good at both. He will be missed by many of us who have known him. Please accept our sympathy at this most difficult time.

*Dick and Barb Beechner*

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**Dick Beechner** - January 24, 2021 at 11:21 AM

DW

“ It's with a heavy heart to learn of Dick's passing! I have always considered him a Best Friend from grade school and high school in Ord. I remember many fond road trips with his Dad (Wayne) taking us and other players to many games around Ord. I was so Happy for him when I learned he met you, Shirley. When I met the two of you at our 50th high school Reunion, I knew both of you were happy, content, and enjoying life together. I'm so sorry for your loss! He was a Great Man full of Love and Caring.

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**David. Worm** - January 23, 2021 at 08:11 PM

TR

“ Both Charlotte and I will miss dick. He was a good long time friend. I can't tell you the number miles we traveled together...by bus! Dick made a difference in so my lives. Of all the memories I have of Dick,one always will stand out....Dick was always willing to help the officals during our football games, by offering to loan them his glasses!! Knowing Dick is with his Lord is the final victory. Terry and Charlotte Renner

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**Terry Renner** - January 23, 2021 at 01:28 PM

CW

“ Always enjoyed chatting with DC when I was at Kearney State in the 80s. He would always slip you an extra pair of shoes or shorts when you needed them. It was great reconnecting with him many years later (2013 til last season) when two of my daughters have played volleyball for the Lopers. Will miss catching up with him at the matches this spring and next fall.

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**Chris Wolfe** - January 22, 2021 at 07:18 PM

MB

“ I had the pleasure of working for DC while attending UNK. Many wonderful memories not only as an employee but as a friend. He will be greatly missed.

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**Mike Brodersen** - January 22, 2021 at 08:31 AM

CL

“ Dick and I started at KSC the same year as members of the football team he was a student manager with Jim McKay. It didn't take to long to figure out you better do things the way Dick thought they should be done. He could make things go well for you or could be pretty tough. Great guy, Good friend for 50 years. Loved everything about KSC/UNK. Will be greatly missed by the Loper Family. Craig Lathrop

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**Craig Lathrop** - January 21, 2021 at 05:51 PM

KL

I'm writing this for my son Cass Larson . he is unable to write this as he has been in nursing home for six years. He had a brain aueryson. He always had nothing but good to say about Dick. Cass worked in training room at UNK in the seventies. Like I said I never heard any negative about Dick. I never met him but feel like I knew him from hearing my son talking about him. We are both sorry for your loss. Sending prayers and thoughts for all of you. Kathy Larson. Mother of Cass Larson. Thanks for everything

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**Kathy Larson** - January 21, 2021 at 07:33 PM

KL

*I just talked to Cass and mom has a poor memory. He said it was the nineties when he worked with Dick. Sorry*

**Kathy Larson** - January 21, 2021 at 08:27 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard 'Dick' W. Collins.*



January 21, 2021 at 04:02 PM

SU

“ *Shirley and family!*

*Nita and I loved Dick and always enjoyed seeing him. We were honored to have had the opportunity to be his colleague and friend! You are in our prayers, thoughts and love.!*

**Scott Unruh** - January 21, 2021 at 02:28 PM

SH

“ *Dick was a special friend and like my second Dad. He was a special man and will be greatly missed. Prayers to his wife Shirley and their family. Loper Nation lost a great ambassador.*

**Steve Hansen** - January 21, 2021 at 10:01 AM

WR

“ Shirley and Family,

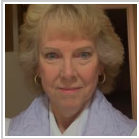
*I am so sorry for your loss and please know my thoughts are with you. Dick was a very important man in my life and meant so much to me. I started at Kearney State in 1984 and was pretty intimidated by going to college and playing football for the Lopers. I soon started as a student worker for Dick in the Equipment Room and it was great for me. Dick welcomed me and really took me in. I needed the money and the football team and equipment room with Dick was my second home. Dick was so good to me and my family and helped us so much. Lots of good and funny memories. His filing cabinet was a hoot. I am blessed to have had the opportunity to know Dick for all these years. Take care.*

*Wade Robinson*

*Loper football team 1984-1988, #78*

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**Wade Robinson** - January 20, 2021 at 08:20 PM



“ Shirley and family, My heart is breaking for all of you!!! Dick always had a smile on his face whenever I would see him. He touched so many lives of people who had the pleasure of knowing him. Gone too soon.

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**Bev Driscoll** - January 20, 2021 at 02:33 PM