



## Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski

September 24, 1947 - June 23, 2025

Richard Alan Osentowski, age 77 of Kearney, Nebraska passed away Monday, June 23, 2025 at Good Samaritan Hospital. Richard's wishes for cremation were honored. The celebration of Rich's life will be Thursday, July 3, 2025 at 10:30AM at Prince of Peace Catholic Church. Father Scott Harter will celebrate. There will be no visitation. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the NU foundation – Osentowski Family Scholarship Fund. Please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a message or condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Service is in charge of arrangements.

Rich was born September 24, 1947 in Ord, Nebraska to Dorothy (Johnson) Osentowski and Dr. Frank J. Osentowski, DDS. Along the way he played every sport; from grade school to graduation. Rich was an All-State Class B basketball player. He won the Class B Nebraska State Golf medal his senior year. Rich was inducted into the Ord High School Hall of Fame for Golf and All-Around Athlete.

Initially, Rich was headed to the University of Nebraska to play basketball and golf for the Huskers. After a change of heart, Rich and his mother Dorothy paid a visit to football coach Al Zikmund at Kearney State College. Rich played football and baseball with honors for four years. As a quarterback, Rich helped lead the 1967 Lopers to an undefeated season. He was inducted into the UNK Athletic Hall of Fame in 1984.

On August 17, 1968 he married Karen Goble (Miss Kearney as he called her) from Beatrice, Nebraska. In 1969 Rich was drafted in the fifth round by the Minnesota Twins. He played his first summer in Sarasota, FL with Hall of Fame pitcher Bert Blylevin. After a successful summer in St. Cloud, MN, Rich hung up the spikes. Instead of pursuing baseball, he signed a teaching and coaching contract in Grand Island. He taught physical education, coached football, track and field for three years.

In June of 1973 Rich and Karen moved back to Kearney, launching his 39-year career as a State Farm Insurance Agent. Policy holders were his priority. With their loyalty and support, Rich and his staff built and maintained an award-winning agency. In 1979, Rich

appeared in State Farm's "Like A Good Neighbor" campaign. The commercial featuring Rich and his policyholders, Mike and Ellen Keenan of Kearney, aired nationally on NBC, ABC and CBS.

Rich was involved in numerous organizations in the community, fulfilling leadership roles and spearheading fundraising efforts as needed. He enjoyed coaching baseball and football; embracing young players. Rich cheered for all Husker athletics, but was a dedicated, loyal and contributing Loper Alumni. When not serving his policy holders or participating in his community, Rich could be found in his satellite office hunting, fishing, or golfing.

Left to cherish his memory are wife Karen of 56 years, sons Jared (Anne) of Shakopee, MN, Richard Ryan of Omaha, NE, Nate (Missy) of Rose, NE. His grandchildren, Hunter, Josephine, Jackson, Mackenzie, Emma, Ellie, Alexa and Olivia blessed his life and his heart with adoring love.

Preceding him in death are his parents and brother, Francis Eugene Osentowski, Aunts, Uncles and Cousins.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ Karen, so sorry for your loss! He was a good friend and a great person to around. Many fun times while in college. Smitty

Steven Smith - July 22, 2025 at 08:56 AM

BP

“ Rich and I were inducted together into the 1st Athletic Hall of Fame at Ord High School (I wasn't able to make it back though to the ceremony) Rich was 2 years older than me at OHS but I sure remember him. He was just a cool guy besides being the best all around athlete I think I ever knew. Although I went to Lincoln and competed there in track I was also able to make it to Kearney to see Rich play, and just like at OHS he threw the ball and made touch downs over and over again. May the Lord fill the emptiness that I know his family has. Bob Pierce - College Station, TX - OHS class of 67.

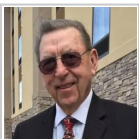
BOB PIERCE - July 09, 2025 at 07:34 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memorial Video



Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services - July 04, 2025 at 09:02 AM



“ Rich and I were separated by one year. The year he enrolled at Kearney was the same year I graduated. But we became friends later in our support of Loper football. Ken Carmann and I attended a Hall of Fame banquet and were wandering around looking for a seat. Rich stood up and motioned us two old linemen to join him and Carol at their table. We were impressed with the invitation. Was a pleasant evening to sit and visit with Rich and Carol.

Ed Hollinger

Ed Hollinger - July 02, 2025 at 05:31 PM

DB

“ Rich was a good friend and will be missed by many. To Riches loved one and family, please accept my sympathy. Dick Beechner

Dick Beechner - July 02, 2025 at 01:37 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.*



July 01, 2025 at 10:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.

July 01, 2025 at 10:53 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.*



July 01, 2025 at 10:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.

July 01, 2025 at 10:36 PM

WG

“ *Rich was not only a great athlete he was an even better husband, father, and friend. He will be missed greatly by Karen and his boys and all of us. May God give you comfort and peace. He always put others first. Let his memories sustain you all. God bless!*

**Wayne Garrelts** - July 01, 2025 at 09:42 PM

KS

“ May God's comfort and peace be with you at this time of your family's loss. Mr. Osentowski was one of my son's first baseball coach's and was a wonderful example of what sportsmanship was and should be for young boys. Mr. Osentowski would bend over and speak with the boys and never talked down to them and I will never forget this model of leadership. My prayers are with the family now and going forward. Sincerely, Kathy Soderholm

Kathy Soderholm - June 30, 2025 at 10:31 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.



June 30, 2025 at 09:27 AM

YF

“ Your Midwest Country Clinic family purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.



Your Midwest Country Clinic family - June 27, 2025 at 07:00 PM

NF

“ Nebr. Baseball Hall of Fame purchased the Fiery Lily and Rose for the family of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.



Nebr. Baseball Hall of Fame - June 27, 2025 at 04:12 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.



June 27, 2025 at 03:34 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.

June 27, 2025 at 03:34 PM



“ Ultimate Snacks Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.



June 25, 2025 at 08:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard "Rich" A. Osentowski.

June 25, 2025 at 08:23 PM

JN

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Karen and family. So sorry for your loss.

*Jerry and Sandy Newman*

**Jerry Newman** - June 25, 2025 at 06:16 PM

DH

“ I played baseball with Rich at UNK. He was a tremendous athlete and a great friend. He will be missed. My condolences to his family.

*Dan Hoesly*

**Dan Hoesly** - June 24, 2025 at 09:10 PM