



Richard "Rich" A. Wilke

December 22, 1939 - September 21, 2018

Richard "Rich" A. Wilke, 78, of Kearney died Friday, September 21, 2018, at the Kearney Regional Medical Center.

Funeral services will be on Tuesday, September 25, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at First United Methodist Church in Kearney. Pastor Melody Adams will officiate and burial will be at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be on Monday, September 24, 2018 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney and also 1 hour prior to services on Tuesday at the church. Memorials are suggested to First United Methodist Church, Kearney Tackles Cancer or to Make A Wish. Online condolences may be submitted by visiting www.hlmkfuneral.com. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

He was born December 22, 1939 in Sargent, NE to Donald and Marjorie (Wellington) Wilke. He grew up in Almeria and attended school in Taylor then moved to Lincoln in 1952 and graduated from Lincoln High School in 1957. On July 17, 1958 he married Jo Ann Watson in Lincoln.

Rich owned and operated the Red Wood Bowl in Milford then moved to Geneva in 1965 where he owned and operated the Past Time. In 1968 Rich started working construction for Maury Corporation in Geneva and eventually obtained the title of Vice-President and General Manager. The company was moved to Kearney in 1980. In 1981 Rich established Wilke Contracting Corporation where he was still the owner and President.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Kearney. He enjoyed participating in Drag and Stock Car racing, liked to bowl, golf and fish. He considered obtaining his pilot's license one of his greatest accomplishments. He and his wife spent their winters in Florence AZ where he liked riding four wheelers in the mountains.

He is survived by his wife Jo Ann Wilke of Kearney; sons, Dave Wilke and wife La Nita of Kearney and Mark Wilke and wife Carol of Hot Springs, SD; daughter, Karen Hibberd and

husband David of Kearney; grandchildren, Ed Johnson and wife Maggie of San Francisco, Brock Wilke and wife Jodi of Lincoln, Derek Wilke and wife Beth of Grand Island, Cole Wilke of Pleasanton, Carey Altizer of Gibbon, Jesse Johnston of Omaha, Trevor and Trey Hibberd of Kearney; 5 great grandchildren; brother, Robert Wilke of Staplehurst, NE; sisters, Kay Wilke of Sun Lakes, AZ and Debra Seibert of Lincoln; sister-in-law, Diane and husband Leo Heugel of Florence, AZ. Rich is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and nephews and great grandnephew.

He was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Amanda Johnson and sister-in-law Delores Wilke.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **24.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

SEP **25.** 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard "Rich" A. Wilke*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM

TS

“ *Jo Ann, Dave, Karen & Mark,
My deepest sympathy on the passing of Richard. I enjoyed working with him for the past 20 years or so. He was honest, straight forward, and you always knew exactly what his thoughts were!*

Tom Stevenson, DAE, LLC

Tom Stevenson - September 26, 2018 at 05:41 PM

SR

“ *Dave, Karen and Family:*

I'm sorry to hear of your Dad's passing. I enjoyed seeing and talking with him when I worked at LJ Webb.

--Steve Ragoss

Steve Ragoss - September 25, 2018 at 03:58 PM

RB

“ *Richard had a special place in so many hearts....and always will. With deepest sympathy, Dave and Rita Bristol*

Rita Bristol - September 24, 2018 at 10:27 PM



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



September 24, 2018 at 06:48 PM

CB

“ *My sympathy to you, JoAnn and all your family.*

Charline Brown - September 24, 2018 at 06:28 PM

JC

“ *Many great memories in business and in life. Thank you my friend.*

John Chicoine

John Chicoine - September 24, 2018 at 03:37 PM



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



September 24, 2018 at 03:14 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard "Rich" A. Wilke.*



September 24, 2018 at 11:28 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Richard "Rich" A. Wilke.*



September 24, 2018 at 11:00 AM

DL

“ *I have always looked at Rich as an example of a hard working and successful contractor. We are sorry to miss his funeral as we are out of town through Wednesday. Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you all in this difficult time.*
He will be missed!

Dick & Mary Ludwig - September 24, 2018 at 10:40 AM

BW

“ We extend our deepest sympathy to Joann and family. May the soul of Rich, be at peace with our Heavenly Father. Sincerely, Darlene Webb and family

Bob Webb - September 23, 2018 at 05:26 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Richard "Rich" A. Wilke.



September 23, 2018 at 01:11 PM