



Robert "Bob" W. Carlson

March 9, 1956 - December 24, 2025

Robert "Bob" W. Carlson, 69, of Kearney, died December 24, 2025, at Kearney Regional Medical Center. Services will be 10:00 am, January 3, 2026, at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services followed by burial at Litchfield Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5:00 to 7:00 pm, January 2, 2026, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the family to be designated later

Bob was born March 9, 1956, in Hastings, to James and Ruby (Jensen) Carlson. He grew up in Hastings and graduated from Hastings High School in 1974.

Bob was a man of many chapters, each filled with love, life, and family. He married Karen Marble in 1977. Then in 1985 he married Teresa Scott. Bob was blessed with four children. He found the Lord in January 2009, deepening his faith, and on August 21, 2009, Bob married the love of his life, Julie Wiese.

In 1986, Bob started Carlson Tree Moving, a business he operated with pride for nearly four decades, eventually expanding into landscaping services.

Through all of life's chapters, one thing remained constant: Bob was a rockstar in every sense of the word - not just because of his incredible musical talent, but because of the way he lived his life. Without any formal training, he

mastered vocals, keyboard, drums, and guitar, playing in several bands over the years and bringing joy to everyone who heard him play.

What truly defined Bob was how he showed up for people. He loved loudly, had a heart bigger than most, and would give you the shirt off his back without expecting anything in return. He was an incredible friend to so many, the kind of person who appeared when you needed him without ever being asked.

Above all, Bob loved his family fiercely. Every conversation ended with “I love you” - words he meant with his whole heart.

Bob is survived by his beloved wife, Julie Carlson of Kearney; children Ryan (Paula) Carlson of Grand Island, Miranda Lukas of Hastings, Cory (Megan) Carlson of Blair, and Laycee Carlson and fiancé Grant Arbaugh of Gretna; grandchildren Leah, Sarah, Taylor, Chase, Lavontay, Thane, Camdyn, Cora, and Zella; sisters Bev (Ron) Davis of Hastings, Judy (Ron) Mays of Lincoln, and Melody Carlson of Glendale, AZ; numerous nieces and nephews and his dog Sammy.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents and brother Dennis Carlson.

Cemetery Details

Litchfield Cemetery

Litchfield, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

JAN 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Funeral



Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services - January 03 at 12:38 PM

VP

“ *Bob was a great friend to all that interacted with him. Most of us scatter to all parts of the world after high school in Hastings, but Bob was the kind of person that could pick up a conversation of 30 years and not miss a beat..... even though you and he had not seen each other in that length of time. A very good man that will be missed by many.*

Vern Powers

VP Powers - January 02 at 12:04 AM

JJ

Bob was a friend to many as it was easy to develop relationships with him. He was a competitor. As a gymnast in high school, he had no fear of the high bar and other events. He worked hard to be the best. His winning smile and heart made him a natural magnet. People wanted to know who he was.

Thank you, Bob. You made a difference. Jon Jorgenson.

Jon Jorgenson - January 06 at 10:26 AM

KH

Bob was my best friend in high school. We completed together in gymnastics, went for lunch and a game of snooker downtown, and worked together at Walgreens Restaurant in Hastings. Bob was funny, and a great friend to me. He was by far the coolest guy I've ever known. I'll miss him.

Kip Hepfinger - January 11 at 12:39 PM

BB

“ *Bryan, Angie & Louie Bindrum purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.*



Bryan, Angie & Louie Bindrum - January 01 at 07:27 PM

MM

“ *Mark M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.*

Mark M. - December 31, 2025 at 05:34 PM

KF

“ *Kearney Etitan Friends planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.*

Kearney Etitan Friends - December 31, 2025 at 10:30 AM

KF

“ Kearney Etitan Friends purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.



Kearney Etitan Friends - December 31, 2025 at 10:30 AM

MD

“ Mitchell S Douglas purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.



Mitchell S Douglas - December 30, 2025 at 10:42 AM

TM

“ Tom & MaryAnne Meyerhoeffer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.

Tom & MaryAnne Meyerhoeffer - December 29, 2025 at 09:30 PM

TM

“ Tom & MaryAnne Meyerhoeffer purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.



Tom & MaryAnne Meyerhoeffer - December 29, 2025 at 09:30 PM



“ Bob was truly a kind hearted person. I know first hand how he showed up for those in need! He and I both grew up around the Hastings music scene, but I left Nebraska at a pretty young age and I hadn't seen Bob in probably thirty years and there he was at my late mother's funeral service giving of himself for a long lost friend who was grieving. It meant a great deal to me that he cared enough to come and give me comfort in such a difficult time in my life. I'm sure he's singing with the angels up in Heaven. Rest easy Bob!

Tom Meyerhoeffer - December 29, 2025 at 09:25 PM

KD

“ Kevin & Audrey Douglas purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.



Kevin & Audrey Douglas - December 29, 2025 at 10:24 AM

KD

“ Kevin & Audrey Douglas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.

Kevin & Audrey Douglas - December 29, 2025 at 10:24 AM

SZ

“ I and my brother Mark have been friends of Bob since high school in Hastings. Mark passed in 2018 in an accident. I was blessed to have worked in Music back in the 1980s and 90s. In 1986 we opened for Blue Oyster Cult at Itchycoo park in Southeast Nebraska, which was a proud highlight to be associated with such a popular leading artist. Bob was a great singer!
Scott Zimmerman, sound.

Scott Zimmerman - December 29, 2025 at 12:47 AM

BH

“ We got to know Bob years ago through Julie. They were neighbors to our kids. Bob was always friendly, and a kind soul and a very hard worker. Always had time for a wave and a Hi how you doing. We just wished each other a Merry Christmas only a few days ago. The loss of Bob saddens us. Julie we are so sorry for the loss of the love of your life. You and your family are in our prayers!
Friends, Bonnie and Denver Hartwell

Bonnie Hartwell - December 28, 2025 at 03:53 PM

BC

“ Bill Dixon Sr and Diane Dixon Cassell purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.



Bill Dixon Sr and Diane Dixon Cassell - December 28, 2025 at 12:44 PM

JK

“ Jackie and Kris Krueger lit a candle in memory of Robert "Bob" Carlson



Jackie and Kris Krueger - December 27, 2025 at 06:06 PM

AW

“ Bob, was a very kind man. My husband and I got to know him about 15 years ago and he was just the most kind hearted man and we enjoyed talking to him and hearing his amazing story! Any time we saw him he just had a smile that lit up. Bob will be missed. God be with his family and friends at this time and just know we will see him again in heaven.

Amy Wilson - December 27, 2025 at 05:13 PM

TF

“ The Morledge Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.



The Morledge Family - December 27, 2025 at 03:53 AM

TF

“ The Morledge Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert "Bob" W. Carlson.

The Morledge Family - December 27, 2025 at 03:53 AM