



Richard Charles Kruse

October 20, 1944 - October 1, 2025

Richard (Rick) Charles Kruse was born October 20, 1944, in Omaha, Nebraska, to Vern and Dorothy (Todd) Kruse. At just three years old, Rick lost his mother unexpectedly. His father later remarried, and Rick was lovingly raised by Mildred (Rosenbaum) Kruse. He attended Startown District 43 through eighth grade and graduated from Bennington High School in 1963.

Rick was baptized at Waterloo Presbyterian Church and confirmed at Kennard Methodist Church. His faith remained a steady part of his life through years of membership and service at Zion Lutheran Church.

In the fall of 1963, while cruising through Kennard, a couple of girls in a '55 Dodge caught Rick's attention. It didn't take long for Rick to find the girl who would later become his lifelong partner. Rick took Barb Grefe on their first adventure together, hauling cattle to Omaha. With one kiss, Rick had captured her heart. On New Year's Eve, Rick told Barb he loved her.

Rick and Barb married on February 27, 1965, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Arlington, Nebraska. Together they built a life filled with love, laughter, and countless adventures. Whether traveling to Cheyenne, exploring Hawaii, cruising Alaska, or driving to rodeos, sports events, and tractor pulls, Rick and Barb cherished every mile and memory side by side.

Rick dedicated his life to hard work and service. He farmed, drove trucks, and spent 28 years as a maintainer operator, keeping the roads of Washington County safe and smooth. Known for his humility, generosity, and quiet strength, Rick never hesitated to lend a hand to a neighbor or share a cold beer with a friend.

Rick is survived by his wife of 60 years, Barb Kruse; his siblings Mari (Bill) Japp and Ron (Barb) Kruse; his children Denise (Bob) Rayman, Dana (Tim) Schmidt, and Todd Kruse; grandchildren Dani (Sam) Landholm, Brett (Erica) Rayman, Jared Schmidt, Claire Schmidt, Maggie Schmidt, and Austin Kruse; and great-grandchildren Barrett and Bristol Landholm, Quinn, Beau, Crew, and Ivy Rayman, and Charles Kruse.

Rick's life was defined by faith, family, and friendship. Those who knew him will remember his presence, his laughter, and the way he made everyone feel like family.

In Lieu of Flowers, memorials are suggested to Zion Lutheran Church, Omaha, NE or St. Paul Lutheran Church, Arlington, NE

Previous Events

Visitation with family

OCT 5. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Celebration of Life Service

OCT 7. 10:30 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church
14205 Ida Street
Omaha, NE 68142

Burial

OCT 7. 1:00 PM (CT)

Prairie View Cemetery
18613 Green Street
Washington, NE 68068

Tribute Wall

RF

“ Ron, Jodie Weaver and family! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Charles Kruse.

Ron, Jodie Weaver and family! - October 05, 2025 at 12:56 PM

RF

“ Ron, Jodie Weaver and family! purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Richard Charles Kruse.



Ron, Jodie Weaver and family! - October 05, 2025 at 12:56 PM

TG

“ The Rugby Girls purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Richard Charles Kruse.



The Rugby Girls - October 05, 2025 at 09:14 AM

TG

“ The Rugby Girls planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Charles Kruse.

The Rugby Girls - October 05, 2025 at 09:14 AM

BM

“ *Betty Mitteis lit a candle in memory of Richard Charles Kruse*



Betty Mitteis - October 04, 2025 at 10:52 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Kruse.*



October 03, 2025 at 09:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Kruse.*



October 03, 2025 at 07:03 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Charles Kruse.*

October 03, 2025 at 04:37 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Kruse.*



October 03, 2025 at 04:37 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Kruse.*



October 03, 2025 at 01:15 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Kruse.*



October 03, 2025 at 12:04 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Charles Kruse.*

October 03, 2025 at 12:04 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Kruse.*



October 03, 2025 at 10:04 AM



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

October 02, 2025 at 10:17 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard Charles Kruse.*



October 02, 2025 at 10:17 PM