



Richard "Jay" Winkelman

November 30, 1963 - June 7, 2025

Richard "Jay" Winkelman was born in Wahoo, Nebraska on November 30, 1963 to Richard G. and Vergie (Howell) Winkelman. He grew up on the family farm near Leshara, attending country school and later graduating from Mead High School in 1982. He went on to attend Midland Lutheran College earning bachelor's degrees in both computer science and math, graduating in 1986.

On November 17, 1984, Rich married his high school sweetheart, Sandy Sweeney, at the Alma Lutheran Church in Mead, Nebraska. They lived in Fremont for a short time, before moving out to the country next to the farm Rich had grown up on. This is where they raised their four children.

For over 40 years, Rich worked as a programmer at Valmont. He also enjoyed working on the family farm and driving the farm truck around. Rich was also very skilled with building and restoring houses. In his younger years, Rich enjoyed playing football and basketball, and he was a dedicated Huskers fan. Rich built model trains, even setting up a track that went around his office and through the closet which served as a tunnel. Everyone knew Rich loved to make homemade ice cream, and he always made enough to fill up an entire freezer.

Rich loved his family very much and had so much fun with his grandchildren. He enjoyed watching all of their sporting events and other activities, took them

4 wheeling, and he gave them his famous “couch rides”. This would involve Rich setting up a couch on a trailer and pulling it around the farm with a tractor; it was an incredibly fun experience unique to the Winkelman farm. As Rich tinkered around the farm, he would ponder, “What if a guy...?” followed by whatever he was planning. He also always told his family, “Let’s get fired up!” Rich was always expecting the correct response of “We are fired up!” which he sometimes received.

There was definitely a fun side to Rich, in addition to him being a diligent and hardworking man. He was also very dedicated to his faith, being a part of the Lutheran Church throughout his life. Rich was very caring, thoughtful, and giving, always thinking of others and how he could help them. He was also the leader of his entire extended family and the go-to person when anyone needed advice.

Rich was preceded in death by his father, Richard G. Winkelman; brother, Chris Winkelman, and nephew, Jeff Hermanson.

He is survived by his wife, Sandy Winkelman; children: Sara (Don) Chappelle, Mary (Pat) Sedlacek, Rich II (Melissa) Winkelman, William (Frankie) Winkelman; grandchildren: Wyatt Peoples, Nolan Peoples, Abby Johnson, Jackson Peoples, Case Chappelle, Lucy Chappelle, Ella Sedlacek, Iggy Sedlacek; mother, Vergie Winkelman; siblings: Lorie (Terry) Hermanson, Marie (Bubba Brabec) Scott, Alice (Terry) Lorenzen, and Jill (Rob) Proctor; and many nieces and nephews.

VISITATION: 5-8pm Sunday, June 15, 2025 at Reichmuth Funeral Home in Yutan, NE. FUNERAL SERVICE: 10:30am Monday, June 16, 2025 at Pohocco Lutheran Church, 2363 Co Rd 11, Fremont, NE 68025. Memorials may be directed to the Pohocco Lutheran Church Memorial Fund.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **15**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Yutan
4th and Vine Street
Yutan, NE 68073

Funeral Service

JUN **16**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Pohocco Lutheran Church
2363 County Road 11
Fremont, NE 68025

Tribute Wall



“ Sara Chappelle lit a candle in memory of Richard "Jay" Winkelman



Sara Chappelle - June 19, 2025 at 09:54 PM



“ Jurgens Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.



Jurgens Family - June 14, 2025 at 06:05 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.



June 13, 2025 at 04:41 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.



June 13, 2025 at 03:49 PM

SM

“ Sheryl and Corby Martens purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.



Sheryl and Corby Martens - June 13, 2025 at 12:11 PM

SN

“ Rich was a great guy. We were a grade older than him, but David played FB and BB with him. He had such a kind, gentle spirit. May our Loving God hold you tightly in His arms and give you peace and comfort until you see him again! Keep his memory alive and talk about him often. Our prayers are being sent.
David & Shari Nygren

Shari Nygren - June 12, 2025 at 12:02 AM

JM

“ Janeen Mann purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.



Janeen Mann - June 10, 2025 at 10:31 PM

JM

“ JAMES MACMILLAN lit a candle in memory of Richard "Jay" Winkelman



JAMES MACMILLAN - June 10, 2025 at 09:26 PM

JM

Jay you will certainly be missed by everyone! He was such a Genuine Kind Man you made this world a better place !!

JAMES MACMILLAN - June 10, 2025 at 09:31 PM

DC

“ *David and Mary Clarke planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.*

David and Mary Clarke - June 10, 2025 at 08:17 PM

DC

“ *David and Mary Clarke purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.*



David and Mary Clarke - June 10, 2025 at 08:17 PM

BS

“ *Brandon & Andrea Stenger planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.*

Brandon & Andrea Stenger - June 10, 2025 at 04:53 PM

BS

“ *Brandon & Andrea Stenger purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.*



Brandon & Andrea Stenger - June 10, 2025 at 04:53 PM

LD

“ *Lawrence Dill purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.*



Lawrence Dill - June 10, 2025 at 04:01 PM

DV

“ *Dear Winkelman Family,*

I am deeply saddened by the loss of Rich. He was a wonderful man, and I feel blessed to have worked with him for so many years. I have fond memories of traveling with Rich to Nebraska basketball games, going to Denver to watch the Patriots beat the Broncos, and attending CAD training in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Rich had a golden heart, and his kindness and generosity will always be remembered.

May God bless his soul and provide comfort to all family and friends during this difficult time.

*With heartfelt sympathy,
Don Vitito*

Don Vitito - June 10, 2025 at 11:48 AM

BA

“ This really breaks my heart. I’m so sad for all of Rich’s family. What a great guy, and kind, gentle soul. He was always a person to go to for questions on drafting and systems, and you’d never have to worry about a question sounding stupid. And somehow he and I discovered we both had an appreciation for the old Trinity spaghetti westerns, and he shared with me his VCR tapes of *They Call Me Trinity*, and *Trinity Is Still My Name*. I’m going to have to find those to watch again.

baker anderson - June 10, 2025 at 11:04 AM

TT

“ The Valmont IT Team purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.



The Valmont IT Team - June 10, 2025 at 10:32 AM

EB

“ Sorry to hear about Jay. He was such a great guy

Ed Bauer - June 09, 2025 at 10:06 PM

ES

“ Eric Scheer lit a candle in memory of Richard "Jay" Winkelman



Eric Scheer - June 09, 2025 at 08:32 PM

JS

“ *Jill Scheer lit a candle in memory of Richard "Jay" Winkelman*



Jill Scheer - June 09, 2025 at 06:56 PM

JS

The same smile, the same chuckle, the same intent listener - always, no matter who he was visiting with or where!

Jay was without a doubt a perfect example of living by the Fruit of the Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control. Galatians 5:22-23.

The ripple effects of his life well lived will most certainly travel on and on...

Jill Scheer - June 10, 2025 at 09:05 PM

LE

“ *I was fortunate to have worked with Rich. He was a quiet gentle soul and a great friend. I already miss him.*

Leo - June 09, 2025 at 05:09 PM

PS

“ *Physicians & Staff of NE CA Specialists purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Richard "Jay" Winkelman.*



Physicians & Staff of NE CA Specialists - June 09, 2025 at 03:47 PM

DW

“ *Debbi White lit a candle in memory of Richard "Jay" Winkelman*



Debbi White - June 09, 2025 at 03:16 PM

DW

“ *Rich was such a gentle, joyful soul. He will be missed by all whose lives were touched by his smile, like me* ❤️

Debbi White - June 09, 2025 at 03:14 PM