



Russell D. "Russ" Bowker

May 16, 1951 - February 21, 2019

NORFOLK -- Celebration of Life Service for Russell D. "Russ" Bowker, 67, of Norfolk, will be held at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 27, 2019 at Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk, with Reverend Terry Buol officiating the service. No visitation will be held. Russ passed away on February 21, 2019 at his home. Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk is in charge of the arrangements.

Born May 16, 1951, in Omaha, he was the son of Glen and Elsie (Milbourn) Bowker. He graduated from Neligh-Oakdale High School in 1969 and then earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1973.

Russ worked for Westinghouse Electric as a field engineer/startup engineer. Russ traveled around the United States, working on nuclear power plants. He started working at Northeast Community College in 1981, where he taught electronics technology, math and physics. Russ retired from Northeast Community College in August 2008. He was always known for his outstanding jokes and goofy humor. He enjoyed tinkering and fixing things, and he was a pet lover. Russ also spent time volunteering, tutoring students at Northeast. He married Kathy Bolinger in 1990. The couple divorced in 2003.

He was a member of Mensa Society and the Nebraska State Education Association.

Survivors include three stepchildren, Steven (Lisa) Bolinger of Omaha, Lisa Bolinger of Lincoln and Jennifer (Brandon) Bruckner of Wakefield; eight step grandchildren, Sam and Matthew Bolinger, Kayla Johnson, Harley Harlan, Allison, Jack, Jacob and Ava Bruckner; a brother, Tom (Lisa) Bowker of Mesa, Ariz.; two nieces; and several cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Glen and Elsie Bowker.

Condolences may be expressed to the family online at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

Previous Events

Service

FEB 27. 1:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk

1200 N.13th St.

Norfolk, NE 68701

info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com

<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

Tribute Wall

ZG

“ *My husband and I met Russ when we were at college at NECC. He was a very nice person & always seemed to have a smile. He will be missed. Condolences for his family.*

ZeZett & Derrick Giroux - March 06, 2019 at 04:17 PM

CS

“ *Rest in peace Cousin Russ. I will miss my "May the 4th be with you" emails. So nice to see you so positively touched the lives of so many in your community. My condolences to your family and friends.
Your Cousin Cindy (Milbourn) Smith*

Cindy Milbourn Smith - March 03, 2019 at 11:57 AM

CS

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Cindy Milbourn Smith - March 03, 2019 at 11:02 AM



“ *Russ was a friend from Northeast College. I still find some of the slips of paper I wrote the punch lines to his jokes on since I could never remember them. I think we joined the staff at about the same year.
He quickly became a part of our family often taking time to actually talk to our kids, Jon and Maelynn. I truly believe he had a photographic memory. The things he knew! Way, way over my head!
One of my favorite stories took place years after we'd both left the college. We were all at Menards. I introduced him to my future son-in-law. He said to Ryan, "Hi. I'm Maelynn's first husband." Our mouths dropped open and all of us were speechless. I still chuckle when I think of it!
Russ was always great with children and his were truly a blessing to him. "May the fourth be with you," Russ. You were a fabulous friend.*

Lesa Bargmann - February 28, 2019 at 12:20 AM

DM

“ Heard the many adventures of Rus while he was growing up and I was working with his Mom. Elsie and Glen were always so proud of their boys. So sorry for your loss. Peace.

DeAnna Martensen

DeAnna Martensen - February 27, 2019 at 08:39 AM

DB

“ Russ and I served on many committees together at NECC. He could always find the humor in each situation and put it in perspective for us. His friendship and wit will be missed. You are in our Prayers.

Don & Lorie Benjamin

Don Benjamin - February 26, 2019 at 07:23 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Russell D. "Russ" Bowker.



February 26, 2019 at 01:13 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Russell D. "Russ" Bowker.



February 26, 2019 at 12:46 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Russell D. "Russ" Bowker.



February 25, 2019 at 08:07 PM

MO

“ Russ was one of a kind! He was one of the first instructors to welcome me to NECC when I arrived in 1997. He would always keep in touch, even though we were in different departments and buildings...always sharing his quick wit and incredible mind! He was an enduring advocate for faculty, meticulously combing through every committee meeting and policy change. We miss his spirit, dedication and loyalty at NECC. Prayers for Russ's family at this time of great loss.



Mary O'Boyle - February 25, 2019 at 07:58 PM

SP

“ Russ was a classmate and friend of mine. He was a smart student with a great wit. I am at a loss for words right now but Russ was always quick and humorous with his words. He will be greatly missed by the class of 1969 of Neligh-Oakdale.

Sue (Lindahl) Petersen - February 25, 2019 at 06:02 PM

KE

“ What a loss! Great instructor and mentor. Will always the time spent with him.

Ken - February 25, 2019 at 04:26 PM

BS

“ Brad and Tabbi Sheets purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Russell D. "Russ" Bowker.



Brad and Tabbi Sheets - February 25, 2019 at 01:45 PM

KS

“ Russ had a fun and quirky sense of humor. He introduced us to two of our closest friends. We were blessed with his presence.

Kevin & Ellen Schneider - February 24, 2019 at 08:52 AM

BO

“ A good soul taken way to soon. RIP---Russ. Bob Bowker

Bob - February 23, 2019 at 04:32 PM

BB

“ Russ and I sat by each other in band at Neligh High School. We both played the tenor saxophone, although he was much better at it than I ever hoped to be. Russ was quiet, intelligent, and witty. He was a true Renaissance man. As a friend, I appreciate so many qualities that Russ just naturally possessed, most especially his sense of humor! Russ was always open, honest, helpful and kind to me. I will truly miss him. May he now Rest In Peace.

Barb (White) Black - February 23, 2019 at 02:28 PM

 Lisa Bolinger

“ I remember the first time I meet Russ at 9 yrs old. We were at UPS with our Mom (Kathy). They were talking as he held a big box. He looked at me and asked me if I would like some popcorn? Holding the big box towards me, I reached in and grabbed a handful of packing peanuts! LOL...he got me! I'm so thankful for him for the last 28 years. I will miss him dearly.

Lisa Bolinger - February 23, 2019 at 02:40 AM