



## Harold E. Gerdes

May 14, 1943 - January 6, 2024

UPDATED 12:45 p.m., Sunday, January 14, 2024

NORFOLK – Funeral service for Harold E. Gerdes, 80, of Ashland formerly of Osmond, will be held at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 17, 2024 at the Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk. Rev. Terry Buol will be officiating. Interment will be held at the Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery, Norfolk. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service at the funeral home on Saturday. Military rites will be held by the American Legion Post 16, V.F.W. Post 1644 of Norfolk, and the United States Army Honor Guard. The family requests that memorials be made to the Ashland Fire and Rescue Department. Harold passed away on Saturday, January 6, 2024 at his residence, rural Ashland, Nebraska. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Harold was born on May 14, 1943 in Osmond, Nebraska to Henry A. and Johanna N. (Kuhl) Gerdes. He attended grade school and high school in Osmond. Harold served in the Nebraska National Guard Company Full Time for 22 years, and with the reserves Nebraska National Guard Company B 1st Bn 134 for over 32 years, then fulfilling a career he retired from with the State of Nebraska Department of Roads. Harold married Diana Buhrman on May 14, 1966 at the Golgatha Lutheran Church, rural Wausa. After marriage, the family lived in Osmond and then later moved to Norfolk. While living in

Osmond, he was a volunteer firefighter for the Osmond Fire Department. They then built a house rural, Ashland and moved there in 1976. He was known for his personality of "everyone is a friend". The one you could call and count on for anything - a road trip, a help with a project, a call for no other reason than to just talk. Being with his family and doing projects on the acreage was his all-time favorite hobby.

Harold loved animals of all kinds, many animals, dogs, cats, cows, horses, sheep, chickens you name it they would end up as pets on his acreage. He would vacation with his wife, Diana, he would help his daughter Cindy sneak animals (pets) on the property for mom not to know, he would take his daughter Dina to sales to buy rare coins. He was always the hero when his "girls" would break down on the side of the road, or just to show up for coffee at the craziest times of the morning at the local truck stop. Many days as his grandchildren came into this world, he would hop in his truck and show up for them for any adventure that called. He will be missed by many.

Survivors include his spouse Diana Gerdes of Ashland, NE, children Cindy (Lawrence) Burke of Louisville, NE, Dina Loo vonRenzell of Lincoln, 4 grandchildren Jacob Burke, Johanna Burke (Specialist Kaleb Rader-Farabee), Joseph Burke, Jesse Burke, 1 great-grandchild Waylon Tucker Rader, siblings LeRoy Gerdes of Osmond, and Mary Ann Finch of Norfolk. He was preceded in death by his parents Henry and Johanna, daughter Kristy Lynn Gerdes, grandson Tucker Frank vonRenzell, siblings Roger Gerdes, Alvin Gerdes, and Leonard Gerdes.

Casket bearers will be Jacob Burke, Joseph Burke, Jesse Burke, Travis vonRenzell, Eric Pearson, and Lawrence Burke. Honorary casket bearer will be Kaleb Rader-Farabee and Johanna Burke. Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at [www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com](http://www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com).



# Cemetery Details

## Hillcrest Memorial Park Cemetery - Norfolk

1950 N. 13th St.  
Norfolk, NE 68701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 17. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk  
1200 N.13th St.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 371-7676  
[info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com](mailto:info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com)  
<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

## Funeral Service

JAN 17. 1:00 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk  
1200 N.13th St.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 371-7676  
[info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com](mailto:info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com)  
<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

# Tribute Wall

GB

“ *My Prayers and Condolences to Harolds Family, I remember opening the Road one winter down to your Drive so you could get out Really liked talking to Harold when I was able too, From your old Neighbor to the East of you The Bahm Family*

Gregory Bahm - January 12, 2024 at 06:29 PM

DV

*Thank you! We love and appreciate having The Bahm Family as neighbors and friends.*

Dina vonRenzell - April 13, 2024 at 08:27 PM

AY

“ *All your family, We Love You! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold E. Gerdes.*

All your family, We Love You! - January 09, 2024 at 11:03 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harold E. Gerdes.*



January 09, 2024 at 11:03 PM

DS

“ Danny Schuelke purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Harold E. Gerdes.



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**Danny Schuelke** - January 08, 2024 at 01:35 PM

LF

“ Linda Kelly and Laura Bergholz families purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Harold E. Gerdes.



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**Linda Kelly and Laura Bergholz families** - January 08, 2024 at 11:54 AM

LF

“ Linda Kelly and Laura Bergholz families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Harold E. Gerdes.

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**Linda Kelly and Laura Bergholz families** - January 08, 2024 at 11:54 AM