



Melvin P. Spader

February 23, 1940 - January 8, 2026

In Loving Memory of Melvin “Mel” Paul Spader

RANDOLPH – Funeral service for Melvin Paul “Mel” Spader, 85, of Randolph will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at the St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Church in Randolph. Father Kevin Vogel and Deacon Doug Tunink will be officiating the service. Burial will be held at the St. Frances Catholic Cemetery, rural Randolph. Visitation will be 4:00-7:00 p.m., Tuesday, also at the church with a Vigil Service beginning at 7:00 p.m. In honor of Mel’s lifelong commitment to youth and his community, the family suggests memorial donations be made to the Randolph TeamMates Mentoring Program. Live long and prosper. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Melvin Paul Spader, a devoted husband, father, and pillar of the Randolph community, passed away peacefully on January 8, 2026, at the age of 85 in Randolph, Nebraska. He was comforted in his final moments by his wife of over 60 years, Elaine Spader, who remained by his side as his constant companion.

The Close of a Legacy

Mel’s life was defined by a profound sense of place and heritage. He was born in 1940 in the kitchen of the family home—the very house where he would

later raise his own four children. He spent his life tending to the land and the legacy of a property that has remained in the Spader name for over 100 years.

As the youngest of ten children born to Matt and Martha (Gubbels) Spader, Mel's passing marks the end of an era. He was the final surviving child of the Matt and Martha Spader tree, the last of a generation that planted the family's roots deep into the Nebraska soil. Melvin married Elaine Konola on June 5, 1965 in Omaha. He was preceded in death by his three sisters, Louise Eich, Marcella Brickley, and Bernice Campbell, and his six brothers, Edward, Fred, George, Alvin, Thomas, and Robert Spader.

Faith and Community

A devoted Catholic and an active member of St. Frances de Chantal Catholic Church, Mel's life was anchored in his faith. He was a man of the Word, known as both an avid reader and a man of steady action. His commitment to the next generation was evident in his work as a founder of the local TeamMates Mentoring Program, and he was a familiar, helping hand at the Knights of Columbus and the Elks Lodge.

When he wasn't serving his community or working the land, Mel was often found with a book in his hand or enjoying Star Trek, always finding inspiration in the "final frontier."

Family and Survivors

Mel's greatest pride was the family he and Elaine built together. He is survived by his beloved wife, Elaine; and his four children: Robert "Bob" Spader, Tammy (Mark) Tunink, Dean (Julie) Spader, Mike (Sonia) Spader.

His legacy continues through his ten grandchildren: Sister Megan Thérèse Tunink, Jennifer Nelsen and her husband, Russell, Tanner Criss and his partner, Kandice Pasch, Grace Spader, Briton Blasingame, Hailee Blasingame, Brayden Blasingame, Paige Blasingame, Rodrigo Chavarria Lopez, and Javier Chavarria Lopez. He was also the proud great-grandfather

of thirteen great-grandchildren.

Mel was preceded in death by his parents, his nine siblings, and his grandson, Parker Criss.

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Cemetery - Rural Randolph

Rural Randolph
Randolph, NE 68771

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 13. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Church - Randolph
402 North Bridge Street
Randolph, NE 68771

Vigil Service

JAN 13. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Church - Randolph
402 North Bridge Street
Randolph, NE 68771

Funeral Service

JAN 14. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Jane Frances de Chantal Catholic Church - Randolph
402 North Bridge Street
Randolph, NE 68771

Tribute Wall

6F

“ 6th CBRN TF - 4-133 FAR purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Melvin P. Spader.



6th CBRN TF - 4-133 FAR - January 13 at 03:15 PM

6F

“ 6th CBRN TF - 4-133 FAR planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melvin P. Spader.

6th CBRN TF - 4-133 FAR - January 13 at 03:15 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Melvin P. Spader.



January 13 at 01:35 PM

KN

“ Kevin and Cindy Needham purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Melvin P. Spader.



Kevin and Cindy Needham - January 13 at 10:28 AM

BF

“ Brent and Tammy Goetsch Family purchased the *Basket Full of Wishes* for the family of Melvin P. Spader.



Brent and Tammy Goetsch Family - January 12 at 07:38 PM

BF

“ Brent and Tammy Goetsch Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melvin P. Spader.

Brent and Tammy Goetsch Family - January 12 at 07:38 PM

FF

“ From your Bunco and Book Club Family purchased the *Serene Reflections Bouquet* for the family of Melvin P. Spader.



From your Bunco and Book Club Family - January 12 at 07:28 PM

FF

“ From your Bunco and Book Club Family purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Melvin P. Spader.



From your Bunco and Book Club Family - January 12 at 07:21 PM

SR

“ So very sorry for your loss, Elaine.

Sherry Riese - January 12 at 06:56 PM

CJ

“ Carol J. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Melvin P. Spader.



Carol J. - January 12 at 06:55 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Melvin P. Spader.



January 12 at 08:14 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Melvin P. Spader.



January 12 at 08:06 AM

MF

“ *Madonna McCarthy "Jack your friend" purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Melvin P. Spader.*



Madonna McCarthy "Jack your friend" - January 11 at 09:47 PM

DK

“ *Dave and Sandy Kortje purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Melvin P. Spader.*



Dave and Sandy Kortje - January 11 at 04:54 PM

DK

“ *Dave and Sandy Kortje planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Melvin P. Spader.*

Dave and Sandy Kortje - January 11 at 04:54 PM

LF

“ *Love, The Markt and Hames families purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Melvin P. Spader.*



Love, The Markt and Hames families - January 10 at 09:56 PM



“ *Good recent picture of Mom and Dad*



Dean Spader - January 10 at 08:03 PM

LL

I so love this Beautiful picture of them. They looked so Happy. I will miss him and hearing him telling me Buggies KEEP THE FAITH. ❤️🙏

Linda Lynch - January 11 at 11:38 PM