



## Gordon Dean Mankin

May 3, 1941 - June 23, 2021

Gordon Dean Mankin, born May 3, 1941 in Hastings, NE passed on Wednesday morning, June 23, 2021 in Mission Viejo, CA due to complications with COPD and lung cancer. A Celebration of Life service will be held on Saturday, August 14th At 10 am at All Faiths Funeral Home. Dan Naranjo will officiate. Burial will follow at Greenwood Cemetery in Trumbull.

Born to Dean and Elberta Mankin, Gordon grew up on a farm just outside Trumbull, NE, where he attended school along with his siblings, Stanley, Eldeen, and Roberta. He was active in nearly every activity from football to 4-H cattle and baking entries at the Clay County fair.

After meeting his future bride at a drive-in ice cream stand in Hastings, Gordon

married Pat Bruning on November 11, 1962 in Palo Alto, CA

His educational path started at University of Nebraska, Lincoln, then onto Hastings

College in Hastings, NE, and ultimately, a mortuary college in San Francisco, CA.

His career varied widely; while a practicing mortician, Gordon was introduced to

flying by his brother-in-law, Dick Perry, who flew fighter jets for the US Navy. He was determined to make it a career, and gained many flight hours in a single-engine craft scattering ashes over the ocean. After applying at several airlines, he was offered a position at a training class for Eastern Airlines, and ultimately became a commercial airline pilot in 1967. Nineteen years and millions of miles later, he became a captain. About that time, he and Pat, along with Gordon Jr. (JR), opened the first of two retail stores in the greater Omaha, NE area. In 1991, Eastern Airlines ceased operations, ending his commercial airline career. He flew corporate jets for a time after, extending his time in the cockpit. As the last act of his career, he parlayed the relationships built as part of the retail store endeavor into becoming an independent sales representative for many of lines his family's store carried. This change in direction spoke volumes of his ability to operate under pressure; after losing the job he loved, and experiencing a serious financial setback with the closing of the retail stores, he persevered and ultimately retired to Casa Grande, AZ and an RV with which they criss-crossed the country. Gordon enjoyed hunting, fishing, horse racing (owning many potential winners...) and traveling with Pat in his RV, especially to see his family. He was a mainstay at the Knights of Columbus in Omaha, working many

activities

at St. Leo's Catholic Church. He would also quietly contribute time and money to

different homeless shelters in Omaha.

Gordon had the ability to talk to anyone, about any topic. He'd often go to the race

track to see one of his horses, but would then spend hours walking around the different barns visiting with different owners, trainers, and others.

Gordon is survived by his sons, Gordon Mankin of Aliso Viejo, CA and Mark Mankin of Omaha, NE. His grandchildren are Joe Dolan, Jack Dolan, Sarah Dolan,

Lauren Mankin, William Mankin, Andrew Mankin, and Jacob Mankin, as well as

his sister, Roberta Cool of Aurora, NE.

He is predeceased by his wife Patricia Mankin, who passed on March 18, 2019. The

siblings who preceded him were Stanley Mankin of Trumbull, NE in 2015 and Eldeen Watson of Coffeyville, KS in 2018. Additionally, two of his sisters-in-law passed before him - Mary Lou Scribner of Napa, CA in 2005, Margot Dooley Perry

Wiess of Whidbey Island, WA in 2010.

There will be a gathering of friends and family on August 14th at 10 AM at All Faiths Funeral Home in Grand Island, NE. Immediately following the service, Gordon's remains will be interred at Greenwood Cemetery in Trumbull, NE, alongside his wife Pat.

His sons and grandchildren would appreciate any memorial giving be directed to

the Alzheimer's Association ([alz.org](http://alz.org))

A special thank you to all the people who cared for him in his final days, from his

doctors to his hospice care givers and the folks at the board and care who were dedicated to his comfort. They deserve our respect and gratitude for the hard work they put in everyday to make our loved ones' last days be as dignified and comfortable as possible.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

AUG **14**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

All Faiths Funeral Home  
2929 S Locust St  
Grand Island, NE 68801  
(308) 398-2929  
allfaiths@giallfaiths.com  
<https://www.giallfaiths.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Gordon Dean Mankin*

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October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *I was saddened to hear of Gordon's passing. There are many fond memories of our days as friends and neighbors in Royalwood - seafood feasts that Gordon brought back from the east coast during his flying days, fun visits on the patio, even Cub Scout and baseball activities. I'll be thinking of you Saturday morning.*

*All good wishes,  
Elaine Beard*

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**Elaine Beard** - August 13, 2021 at 09:16 PM