



## Kerry W. McGrath

June 25, 1956 - September 4, 2023

Kerry W. McGrath, 67, passed away at home on September 4th. Kerry was born in Grand Island on June 25, 1956, the son of Dr. Charles Dean and Margaret (Bambrick) McGrath. He grew up in the family's house on Webb Road, which in his childhood was in a rural setting surrounded by corn fields, but by his high school days was the center of a busy commercial district. He attended public schools - Engleman Elementary, Walnut Junior High, and Grand Island Senior High, where he graduated in 1974. During his years at GHS, he was a member of the swimming and gymnastics teams. Kerry attended the University of Nebraska Lincoln, joining the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, and graduating in May 1979 with a degree in civil engineering. He began a long and distinguished career as a construction engineer during summer jobs while in college. Following college graduation, he worked for Missouri Valley Construction, Peter Kiewit Construction, Werner Construction, and ended his career in 2020, when he retired from Hooker Brothers Construction in Grand Island. He worked and led construction projects throughout Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Oklahoma, including building or rebuilding many stretches of familiar Nebraska roads such as Highway 281 and Interstate 80, as well as a large variety of other projects, including the Davis Creek Dam. He had a wealth of knowledge about the history, geography, and culture of Nebraska having lived and worked in so many different locales around the state during his long career. He was well-known among family and friends as an extremely hard, meticulous worker and a

loving caregiver to his aging parents in their later years. He loved being outdoors completing projects such as shoveling the snowy sidewalks, even as a small boy when the snow was well over his head. Over the years he worked his way up from the shovel to the ancient Allis Chalmers tractor (crank start), then to the trusty 1951 Willy's family jeep, and eventually showing up with the large company earth mover to plow driveways. Following in his father's footsteps, Kerry became known as a person who "could fix anything." And like his father, one of his most passionate hobbies was flying. He was an instrument-rated pilot for over 40 years. He was also an accomplished musician; he began playing the trumpet in junior high school and went on to perform in the Nebraska Tri-City Area Youth Symphony Orchestra, and Walnut and Senior High marching bands. He continued his musical career as a proud member of the Nebraska Cornhusker marching band, where his family and friends were thrilled to watch him in nationally-televised half-time bowl appearances during the Husker's glory years. Kerry wed Renee' Meister on December 19, 1981 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Grand Island. They raised two children, Aaron Michael, born April 5, 1983, and Andrea Molly, born May 15, 1986. Kerry is survived by his wife and both children, as well as three siblings, Charles Dean McGrath Jr., Alexandria, Virginia; Melissa Ann "Lisa" McGrath Kinnally, Huntsville, Alabama; Martha Jean "Marcy" McGrath Kovar, Aurora, Oregon; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents. Kerry was a member of St. Leo's Church, Riverside Golf Club and the Saddle Club of Grand Island. The funeral service will be held at All Faiths Funeral Home, 2929 S. Locust, on Wednesday, September 13 at 2pm. Memorials are suggested to the family to designate to a charity at a future date.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

SEP **13**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kerry W. McGrath*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Kerry was a good, good man, raised up right, we'll miss him.*

**michael j frost** - September 12, 2023 at 09:58 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Kerry W. McGrath.*



September 10, 2023 at 03:22 PM



“ *That's a beautiful tribute to an amazing man. We are so sorry for your loss, and are thinking of you all with love and prayers.*  
*Suzy and Tom Dunkleman*

**Suzy Dunkleman** - September 09, 2023 at 11:16 AM



“ *Sorry to hear about Kerry, his dad and my dad went to school together, Kerry was great guy God Bless..*

**George Katrouzos** - September 08, 2023 at 04:06 PM

GH

“ *Renee and family: Sally and I were saddened to hear of Kerry's death. Our hearts and prayers are with you. Gordon Hrnicek*

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**gordon hrnicek** - September 08, 2023 at 11:32 AM

RL

“ *Kerry was an awesome friend and father. We've been friends since 1983 and he's always been there for us. He will always be sincerely missed by everyone that ever knew him. Renae we are always here for you even from afar.*

*Love always*

*Rob and Valerie Lloyd*

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**Rob and Valerie Lloyd** - September 07, 2023 at 07:50 PM