



## Michael Allen "Mike" Vanicek

December 21, 1955 - January 19, 2021

Michael Allen "Mike" Vanicek, 65, of Grand Island passed away on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, after a five-month battle with brain cancer.

Celebration of life memorial service will be 11:00 a.m. Friday at Peace Lutheran Church with Rev. Luke Biggs officiating. Livestreaming of the service will be available on All Faiths Facebook Page. Burial of ashes will be at 1:30 p.m. at Greenwood Cemetery in York, NE. There will be a gathering of friends and family for the hour prior to the service beginning at 10. All Faiths Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

Mike was born December 21, 1955, at Schuyler, NE, the son of LeRoy and Ardeth (Kral) Vanicek. He attended school in Schuyler, Lexington and York, graduating from York High School in 1974. Mike then attended UNL, receiving a degree in business in 1978.

On July 14, 1979, Mike married his high school sweetheart, Rhonda Rathje. The couple made their home in Lincoln for two years before moving to Grand Island.

Mike was employed by Commercial Federal Savings and Loan for three years, Overland National Bank for 16 years and had 15 years with Bosselman Energy as Credit Manager, before retiring in 2017.

He was a member of Peace Lutheran Church and his faith helped keep him strong through his cancer. Mike coached Little League baseball for over 20 years. He also enjoyed golf and spending time at the lake house at Summer Haven by Fort Kearny.

Those who cherish Mike's memory include his wife, Rhonda; son, Brady Vanicek and fiancée, MaryLynn Erickson of Hastings; father, LeRoy (Kathy) Vanicek of Arizona; twin brother, Mark (Nancy) Vanicek of Lincoln, Joel (Laurie) Vanicek of Omaha and Gary Vanicek of Illinois.

Other survivors include mother-in-law, Donna Rathje of York; brothers and sisters-in-law, Wes and Robin Handley of Oklahoma, Arnie and Peggy Johnson of Albion and Rose Rathje of Hastings; step-brother, Curt Buchanan of Arizona and step-sister, Pam Dierking of Kansas; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his daughter, Kaila Vanicek; mother, Ardeth Vanicek; father-in-law, Harry Rathje and brother-in-law, Scott Rathje.

Memorials are suggested to places near and dear to Mike's heart; Kaila Vanicek Memorial Scholarship through Grand Island Public School Foundation, Mission Central in Iowa or

Peace Lutheran Church.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Peace Lutheran  
1710 N. North Rd  
Grand Island, NE 68803

## Celebration of Life Service

JAN **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Peace Lutheran  
1710 N. North Rd  
Grand Island, NE 68803

# Tribute Wall



“ *Michael Allen "Mike" Vanicek*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *I have so many great memories of Mike while he lived in Lexington. Junior High dances, shooting hoops in our driveways and drag racing our Mustangs east of town (it was no contest as his was way faster). It was tough when he and Mark moved to York in our Sophomore year, but we kept In touch and Mike and I reunited for one year at Kearney State College. In recent years, he and Mark have come to the Lexington alumni golf tournament and played with a group of his Minutemen classmates. I guess what I'm trying to say is that our friendship endured over many years and that friendship was priceless. My thoughts and prayers go out to Rhonda and his son and I know that he is in heaven loving his daughter and watching over all of us until we meet again.*

*Steve Smith*

Steve Smith - January 23, 2021 at 12:41 PM



“ *Sheila Steele lit a candle in memory of Michael Allen "Mike" Vanicek*



Sheila Steele - January 22, 2021 at 12:22 PM



“ *To the Vanicek Family,  
Having grown up with Mike in Lexington and staying friends for all these years I cannot express my sorrow enough to all of you! Mike is at peace now and please take comfort knowing he is in a better place, he is making new friends just as easy as he did here on earth, and enjoying seeing those that have passed before him again!*

*Bless your family, know that you are in our thoughts and prayers!*

*Tom and Debbie Hardesty  
Lincoln*

tom hardesty - January 22, 2021 at 07:50 AM

TH

“ Rhonda, Brady, and family,  
I am so very sorry for your tremendous loss. I had the honor of working with Mike at Overland back in the 90's. It didn't take long for me to realize and know that Mike was very special and so kind. As a new Lender, Mike was a fantastic mentor to me. He had such a wonderful personality and infectious laugh that one couldn't help but be drawn in by his sincerity. I was fortunate to have golfed with him on several occasions and picked up some great tips that he doled out. In retirement I loved hearing how he and Rhonda traveled Nebraska with the passport travels. They were so excited to tell of their journeys.  
I am so sad by Mike's passing, but I know that he had a relationship with Jesus which gives me great comfort. Mikee, until we meet again I pray that you will continue to watch over your loved ones. You will be missed beyond words. Much love and thoughts to you and your family.  
Love, Teresa Hake

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**Teresa Hake** - January 21, 2021 at 09:35 PM

DB

“ We are so sorry to hear that Mike has passed. I spent several years working with Mike at the Overland National Bank and without a doubt, he was a good kind man, great husband and father and an employee that any business would love to hire. Our thoughts and prayers extend to Rhonda and her family and wish you peace and comfort in knowing that his terrible ordeal is over. One of my most vivid memories of Mike is when the June tornadoes hit in 1980, Mike and I and a couple other employees of the bank were working that night calling past due loan customers. When the electricity went out and the winds hit, we headed to the basement of the bank where emergency lighting was on and waited out the storms. Someone found a radio so we could listen for the ok to leave and then the drive home made me realize what a terrible event had just happened. RIP old friend until we meet again.  
Dick and Conni Bales  
Omaha, NE

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**Dick Bales** - January 21, 2021 at 03:56 PM

BS

“ Barbara J Schmidt lit a candle in memory of Michael Allen  
"Mike" Vanicek



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**Barbara J Schmidt** - January 21, 2021 at 03:34 PM

MV

“ To Twin Brother "Mike"

*Growing up together we have accumulated many memories and stories. We both loved hunting, sports, golf(most of the time), lake homes, and of course our Wives, Children, and Family.*

*You can be very proud of your accomplishments in only 65 years. I can only imagine how much longer that list would be if we had 20 more years. Many will miss you! I agree with Scott: Your task now is to watch out for all of us. You know we definitely need your help.*

*Love you always*

*Mark*

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**Mark L Vanicek** - January 21, 2021 at 01:56 PM

GS

*I am so for your family! Treasure the memories that bring you laughter! You will miss him forever! Gay Elkins Stover*

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**Gay Elkins Stover** - January 21, 2021 at 08:00 PM

FW

“ From Chuck & Karen Wakehouse purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Michael Allen "Mike" Vanicek.



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**From Chuck & Karen Wakehouse** - January 21, 2021 at 08:21 AM



“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Michael Allen "Mike" Vanicek.



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January 20, 2021 at 09:37 PM

SW

“ *Husband, Father, Son, Brother, Friend, Teammate and many more roles my Buddy carried out. Your pain is gone and you are free to cruise in the Mustang! I think my Lemans could still take your Stang off the line!*

*Many many memories! Games bus rides, car rides and the wonderful time cleaning out under the grain scale in Waco. To many to mention!*

*It is your role now to keep watch over all of us now and you will no doubt handle it well.*

*Oh what a lucky man I am for having you as a friend. God Bless*

*Scott*



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**Scott Wiemer** - January 20, 2021 at 08:14 PM

SW

“ *Scott and Leslie Wiemer purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Michael Allen "Mike" Vanicek.*



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**Scott and Leslie Wiemer** - January 20, 2021 at 07:38 PM