



Richard D. Saalfeld

July 23, 1944 - January 16, 2026

Richard 'Rick' D. Saalfeld, 81 of Grand Island left for his eternal home on Friday, January 16, 2026, with his loving family by his side.

Celebration of Life Service will be 10:30 AM Thursday, January 22nd at All Faiths Funeral Home. Daniel Naranjo will officiate. Live streaming will be available on Rick's obituary page at www.gjallfaiths.com. Burial will be in the Grand Island Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-7 PM Wednesday at All Faiths Funeral Home.

Rick was born on July 23, 1944, in Columbus, NE the son of Duane and Doris (Foust) Saalfeld. He attended K-8 school in Richland and graduated from Columbus High School, class of 1962. He was united in marriage to Rhonda (Reher) Ganow on October 30, 1984.

Rick was employed for many years for United Food and Commercial Workers as an International Representative assigned to Chicago. Rick's professional career was all about being the voice of others. Including when he testified before the Congressional Sub Committee to pass the WARN ACT. He felt honored to receive the signature pen from the Speaker of the House The Honorable Jim Wright for that testimony. Rick was inducted into the Labor Leaders Hall of Fame in 2003, the same year as his retirement. He also testified to a Congressional sub committee to encourage packing plants to not

hire non union workers in an order to keep wages fair for workers. In addition he served in many capacities as follows: Excel Chain Chairman, National Packing House Committee Member, Business Agent for Local 106 and Local 22, Secretary Treasurer UFCW 22, President UFCW local 22 in Fremont and Local 271 Omaha. International Representative assigned to Chicago Office and Region II, Executive Board Member of the Nebraska State AFL-CIO, and Governor Ben Nelson's appointee to Job Training Council of NE. Fighting hard for the workers was his career passion.

Rick NEVER woke up to a bad day. Traveling with Rhonda, his kids, and grandkids were his passion in retirement. He loved to camp, fish, fiddle with carpentry and home improvements. The yard at their house looked like a picture from a garden magazine. Christmas was his favorite holiday and he was determined to experience his last Christmas with family. Rick was a fighter. He battled cancer for a number of years and NOT ONCE did it get him down. When he and Rhonda married, there was never a question that Laura and Scott were his kids.

Football games at the Saalfelds were intense especially if the Bears, Chiefs or Huskers were playing. In fact, he would watch anything HUSKER from Volleyball to track.

Those left to cherish his memory include his wife, Rhonda; children, Scott (Ginny) Ganow of Kearney, Rich (Lisa) Saalfeld of Crete and Sue (Saalfeld) Burkhardt; nine grandchildren, seven great grandchildren. He is preceded by daughter Laura Ganow; his parents and two brothers, Rod and Randy Saalfeld.

Memorials are suggested to AseraCare Hospice and individual choice.

Cemetery Details

Grand Island Cemetery

3168 W Stolley Park Rd
Grand Island, NE 68801-7203

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Celebration of Life Service

JAN 22. 10:30 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ *All Faiths Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Richard D. Saalfeld*



All Faiths Funeral Home - January 22 at 09:34 AM

MK

“ *Matthew K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard D. Saalfeld.*

Matthew K. - January 21 at 11:59 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Richard D. Saalfeld.*



January 21 at 05:31 PM

VM

“ I grew up thinking that Rick, Rod and Randy were my brothers. My dad and Rick's mom were brother and sister and we did everything together. We went on vacations and spent nearly every weekend together. I always admired how smart and talented Rick was. I enjoyed our visits so much through the years. His love for Rhonda and his family was so strong and he had such a firm belief in God it was an inspiration for me. My deepest sympathy to you all.

Vikki Foust Mihulka - January 21 at 10:52 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard D. Saalfeld.



January 21 at 09:53 AM

KH

“ Kathy Hancock planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard D. Saalfeld.

Kathy Hancock - January 21 at 09:53 AM

FF

“ From The Hinz Trucking family. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard D. Saalfeld.

From The Hinz Trucking family. - January 20 at 05:43 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Richard D. Saalfeld.*



January 20 at 05:43 PM



“ *I grew up with Rick and his brothers, we were cousins. He took pride in the things he did including some masterful carpentry. Rest in Peace, Richard*

Pat Foust - January 20 at 02:50 PM