



Robert Nicholas Klein "Bob"

February 8, 1938 - March 22, 2025

Robert Nicholas Klein was called home to be with the Lord on March 22, 2025. Robert was born on February 8, 1938, to Nicholas and Alice Klein in Bellwood, Nebraska. He was raised on a farm ½ mile from David City, Nebraska.

He attended grade school at Saint Mary's and high school at David City High, then went on to the University of Nebraska, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree and later a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics. He trained to be an Extension Agent between his junior and senior years in college at the Dodge County Extension Service in Fremont, Nebraska. After receiving his Bachelor's Degree in 1960, he accepted a position as an Extension Agent in Douglas County (Omaha), where he worked for two years before enrolling in graduate school.

On June 5, 1963, he married Janet Elizabeth Knust of Omaha, Nebraska, the love of his life. In August 1963, he became the Extension Agent Chairman in Red Willow County, Nebraska, where he worked for 20 years. During his tenure in Red Willow County, he received several awards, including the United States Department of Agriculture Superior Service Award, Distinguished Service Awards from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents and the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents, the Agriculture Builder Award from the Greater McCook Area Chamber of Commerce, and a month-

long trip to the Orient and Southeast Asia, from Red Willow County businesses, farm organizations, and service clubs.

He was also a member of the Nebraska Air Guard in Lincoln and rose to the rank of Sergeant.

After his twenty years as Extension Agent in Red Willow County, he became a Cropping Systems Specialist for the University of Nebraska Western Central Research and Extension Center, with his office in North Platte. His work included, both as an Extension Agent and Specialist, the development and implementation of Ecofarming. He always defined this as a system of controlling weeds and managing crop residues throughout a crop rotation with minimal use of tillage, in order to reduce soil erosion and production costs, while increasing weed control, water infiltration, moisture conservation, and crop yield.

His awards as a Specialist included the National Award for Agricultural Excellence, the Cooperative Extension Service Distinguished Extension Specialist Award, inclusion in Who's Who in Agricultural Education, election to the Nebraska Hall of Agricultural Achievement, and being named a Fellow of the North Central Society of Weed Science.

Robert was preceded in death by his father, Nicholas Klein; his mother, Alice Klein, both of David City, Nebraska; and his sisters and brothers-in-law, Jean (John) Kosch of Loveland, Colorado, and Maxine (Virgil) Vrbka of David City, Nebraska.

He is survived by his wife, Janet; daughter Kimberly (Dan) Petsch of Grand Island, Nebraska; son Kendall (Madonna) Klein of Omaha, Nebraska; grandchildren Nicholas Petsch of Grand Island, and Kaylee Petsch of Omaha, Nebraska; Noah, Hope, and Evan Klein of Omaha, Nebraska; one sister, Sr. Rose Klein of Wichita, Kansas; and two brothers, George (Emily) Klein of Chadron, Nebraska, and Ronald Klein of Norfolk, Nebraska.

Robert enjoyed his work and loved his family. His hobbies included gardening, fishing, hunting, water skiing, jet skiing, camping, golfing, and traveling. We will miss Bob.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 28, 2025, at St. Leo's Catholic Church. A visitation will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., with a Rosary following, at All Faiths Funeral Home on Thursday, March 27, 2025. Janet and her family suggest memorials be made to the Lincoln Connection Homeless Shelter. Online condolences may be left at www.allfaiths.com.

Services are as follows: Burial will take place in Saint Mary's Catholic Cemetery at David City, Nebraska, in Lot 18, following the luncheon.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 27. 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/>

Rosary

MAR 27. 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/>

Funeral Service

MAR 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Leo's Catholic Church
2410 S Blaine St
Grand Island, NE 68801-7307
(308) 382-4753

Committal

MAR **28**. 3:30 PM.

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery
David City, NE

Tribute Wall

PB

“ Bob was one of the greatest extension specialists that I had the honor of knowing. His ability to convey practical knowledge in a memorable way was simply astounding. He also helped revolutionize agriculture in Nebraska by making it much more sustainable. My favorite quote was "if you want straw, buy it from your neighbor." because it highlighted the need to keep residue on your no-till ground. Simply, he was a giant in agriculture and in life. He and his family are in my thoughts and prayers.

P. Stephen Baenziger - April 02, 2025 at 08:19 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Robert Nicholas Klein "Bob".



April 01, 2025 at 05:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Robert Nicholas Klein "Bob".

April 01, 2025 at 05:15 PM

LI

“ Praying for all of you as Robert is called home to be with the Lord.



Laura Irwin - March 28, 2025 at 11:42 PM

LI

“ *May your love for Robert continue to be a light that shines on throughout your lives.*



Laura Irwin - March 28, 2025 at 11:39 PM

LI

“ *May Robert continue to be a light in your lives.*



Laura Irwin - March 28, 2025 at 01:16 PM

LI

“ *My wonderful uncle Robert was such a sweet, good man. He seemed to always be in a good mood. You could expect to see him with a smile on his face every time you saw him. He was a very positive and upbeat person. I never heard him say anything negative about anyone. He reminded me a lot of his dad, Nicholas, who was also a wonderful man! Robert will be greatly missed. With love and prayers to the family. May the many special memories you share be a comfort to you all.*

Laura Irwin - March 28, 2025 at 12:21 PM

DP

“ Diane Petsch purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Robert Nicholas Klein "Bob".



Diane Petsch - March 27, 2025 at 01:18 PM

KM

“ I'm very sorry to hear of Bob's passing. He always put a smile on my face when we got the chance to work together on publishing his research articles. I'll miss my "Bob K" calls this growing season, he was such a kind and gentle soul. My thoughts are with his loved ones, I hope they have many fond memories of Bob to cherish.

Katy Moore - March 27, 2025 at 12:10 PM

GK

“ Hello from Chadron. As you read the obituary you can certainly see that Robert was a high achiever. He accomplished a lot in his lifetime. He made his family, his parents and brothers and sisters proud. If any members of the Klein and Homan families are interested in the family ancestry, please contact us. We were quite surprised a few years ago to find Father Jim Klein who was one of Kenneth Klein's sons. Father Jim passed away this past January in Colorado Springs. God bless all of you. George and Emily Klein, Chadron, Nebraska

George Klein - March 27, 2025 at 09:19 AM

SK

“ Stevan K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Nicholas Klein "Bob".

Stevan K. - March 26, 2025 at 11:01 PM

PW

“ Pat, Tania, Emma, Addison and Owen Wiese purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Robert Nicholas Klein "Bob".



Pat, Tania, Emma, Addison and Owen Wiese - March 26, 2025 at 09:52 PM

PW

“ Pat, Tania, Emma, Addison and Owen Wiese planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Nicholas Klein "Bob".

Pat, Tania, Emma, Addison and Owen Wiese - March 26, 2025 at 09:52 PM

TF

“ The Kruger Family purchased the *Arrive in Style* for the family of Robert Nicholas Klein "Bob".



The Kruger Family - March 26, 2025 at 02:54 PM

JW

“ Jeff W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Robert Nicholas Klein "Bob".

Jeff W. - March 26, 2025 at 11:08 AM

LL

“ Love Greg, Dan, Karen, Todd and Laura purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Robert Nicholas Klein "Bob".



Love Greg, Dan, Karen, Todd and Laura - March 25, 2025 at 07:24 PM