



Charles S. "Charlie" Horner

November 26, 1943 - June 20, 2025

A Celebration of Life for Charlie was held on Thursday, July 10, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. at Antelope Park Church of the Brethren in Lincoln, Nebraska. Pastor Sue Smith presided over the Service.

Pat Friesen was the pianist and she accompanied the congregation in the singing of "Help Us To Help Each Other" and "We Are A People Of God's Peace." She also played special music, "On The Atchison, Topeka, and the Santa Fe."

A private Committal of Ashes was held at the Bethel Church Cemetery, Carleton, Nebraska.

Memorials are suggested to the Antelope Park Church Of The Brethren or the Lincoln Habitat For Humanity.

Charles Stephen "Charlie" Horner passed away on June 20, 2025. Charlie was born on November 26, 1943 in Randsburg, CA to Milo and Ruth (Miller) Horner. After spending his first three years in the Mojave Desert, Charlie's family returned to Nebraska where he grew up on a farm north of Carleton with his sister Beverly. He attended elementary school in Carleton, graduated from Shickley High School in 1962, received a Bachelor of Biology degree from McPherson College and earned a Masters from Emporia State

University.

Charlie married Sigrid Wagner of Wiley, CO on December 27, 1969. Their daughter Michelle was born in 1974, followed by son Michael in 1976. He was a dedicated father who worked hard to give his family a wonderful life filled with hand-built treehouses, camping vacations, and multiple trips to Sigrid's birth country Germany.

Charlie began his professional career teaching high school science in Kansas, followed by ten years working on the family farm in Nebraska. His teaching career continued in Colorado, and upon retirement from teaching, he drove school buses for Lincoln Public School for 14 years. On summers off from teaching, Charlie often took on other work to fund family trips and educational opportunities for his children.

Service to others was an important part of Charlie's life. He and Sigrid frequently volunteered for Brethren Disaster Ministries, including after Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. They were also active members in Church of the Brethren congregations in Carleton, Wiley, CO, and Lincoln, and served as camp managers at Camp Colorado. For many years, Charlie was active with Habitat for Humanity of Lincoln.

Several of Charlie's hobbies proved him to be an engaging entertainer: he helped share the Gospel through puppetry with the Bethel Puppeteers; spread joy and laughter as Chuckles the Clown; and demonstrated how science could be fun as Professor Oops. He was also an active woodworker, specializing in toys, carved signs, and household furniture.

Outdoor activities kept Charlie on the go. He loved camping, rode three times in the Bike Across Kansas bike ride, and, at the age of 80, took up kayaking. A lifelong love of trains found Charlie becoming active in model railroad clubs

in Lincoln, Beatrice and Omaha, and he shared his passion by leading Model Railroad Camp at Lincoln Children's Museum. For the past three summers, Charlie worked alongside other train enthusiasts at a work camp for the Friends of Cumbres & Toltec Railroad in Chama, NM. It was at the end of this year's work camp that Charlie passed away. He left this world doing something he absolutely loved.

Charlie is survived by his wife Sigrid; daughter Michelle Horner (Lincoln, NE); son Michael Horner and husband Corwynn Romberger (North Kansas City, MO); sister Beverly Burger (Perryton, TX); sister-in-law Tina Grosbach and husband Duane (Enders, NE); and nieces, a nephew, great nieces and nephews, and one great, great nephew; and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents Milo and Ruth Horner, in-laws Anneliese and Viktor Wagner, brother-in-law Richard Burger, and niece Jennifer Burger.

Cemetery Details

Bethel Cemetery

2494 Rd 5500
Carleton, NE 68326

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

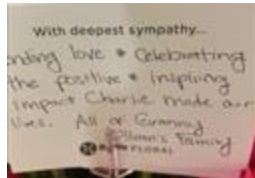
JUL 10. 11:00 AM (CT)

Antelope Park Church Of The Brethren
3645 Sumner Street
Lincoln, NE 68506

Tribute Wall



“ 32 files added to the album Flower pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - July 10, 2025 at 02:55 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charles S. "Charlie" Horner.



July 08, 2025 at 06:13 PM



“ All of Granny Ullom's Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Charles S. "Charlie" Horner.



All of Granny Ullom's Family - July 07, 2025 at 11:46 AM

LH

“ The Village of Belvidere has lost a dedicated friend. Years ago we moved the only Union Pacific depot left in Thayer County to the Belvidere Whistle Stop Train Watching Area.. Charlie made many trips from Lincoln to work on this depot. Because of all his work and donations it has been transformed into a great museum. He became a great friend to all of us. He never quit with working on more ideas for this attraction. We all need to know at least one “Charlie” in our lives. We are planning to honor him this fall.. He indeed loved mankind and trains. Now when a train passes through we will always think of our dear friend, and there have been 20-30 trains in a twenty four hour day. We thank the Horner family for sharing this kind and humorous man with us!
It will indeed be a special “Charlie Horner Day” celebration this Fall.

Linda Hudson - July 06, 2025 at 11:47 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Charles S. "Charlie" Horner.



July 02, 2025 at 10:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Charles S. "Charlie" Horner.

July 02, 2025 at 10:21 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charles S. "Charlie" Horner.



June 30, 2025 at 10:20 PM



“ From Lucille Hoffman and family! purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Charles S. "Charlie" Horner.



From Lucille Hoffman and family! - June 29, 2025 at 05:24 PM



“ The Sy Family purchased the Simply Elegant Sp athiphyllum for the family of Charles S. "Charlie" Horner.



The Sy Family - June 27, 2025 at 03:49 PM

CJ

“ How does one gauge the impact of someone like Mr Horner? Probably by looking at the results, perhaps? How many of us embraced science backgrounds, in part, because of his inspiration? He made things interesting . He made class informative and fun. I will never forget the Funny File--his 3X5 notecards of all of the jokes he wanted to remember. I will never forget learning how to make a strobe light from a wooden box, light bulb and variable speed motor. And above all, I will never forget the El Ranco Buckhorn. I can only wish that all students at some point in their lives come into contact with a person who inspires them with their passion for science and pursuit of knowledge. You did well, Charlie!

Carlton Johnson - June 27, 2025 at 11:23 AM

DM

“ Thank you Mr Horner, for biology and chemistry!

Donald Mathis - June 26, 2025 at 11:03 PM

JC

“ Charlie was a wonderful science teacher while I attended Little River High School, 1968-1972. He loved taking candid photos of the students and their activities which ended up in our yearbooks. What keepsakes! Thoughts and prayers to you, Sigrid, my German instructor in high school. Deepest sympathy to your children as well. Judy Anderson Clark

Judy Clark - June 26, 2025 at 09:44 PM

RM

“ *The Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad have lost a valued member and session volunteer. Charlie, you will be sorely missed!*

*Rick Marsden
President
Friends of the Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad*

Rick Marsden - June 26, 2025 at 12:29 PM

CK

“ *Cheryl Harris (Garden City, KS) purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Charles S. "Charlie" Horner.*



Cheryl Harris (Garden City, KS) - June 25, 2025 at 10:12 AM

JG

“ *Jason george lit a candle in memory of Charles Horner*



Jason george - June 24, 2025 at 04:24 AM

AS

“ *My deepest sympathies for your loss. The model railroad community is a close one, and we are all saddened by this news. Charlie will be missed.*

Amie Shuck - June 23, 2025 at 01:35 PM

JB

“ Charlie was a big impact on my son Austin!!! Charlie gave Austin his first train layout. Austin would spend the night at Charlie house the next morning they would take off together to a train show. Charlie and Austin had the same love of Trains!!! Charlie helped out Thayer County Museum and also the train depot. He will be missed on weekends in Omaha train club. Charlie is riding rails in heaven Thank You Charlie!!! Austin and Jay Buckles

Jay Buckles - June 22, 2025 at 10:30 PM