



Darrel L. Lichty

November 6, 1944 - June 11, 2025

A Memorial Service for Darrel was held on Saturday, June 21, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. at the Evangelical Free Church in Geneva, Nebraska with Pastor Jeff Jensen presiding.

Private Family Graveside Services were held at the Bethel Cemetery in rural Carleton, Nebraska.

Memorials are to be directed to the E-Free Missionary Fund or the Carleton Fire Department.

Darrel's Memorial Service will also be livestreamed on the Evangelical Free Church's YouTube Page. To access that link please click below or copy and paste the link into your browser.

Evangelical Free YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@genevaefc>

Darrel Lynn Lichty age 80, lifelong Thayer County farmer passed away peacefully in his home on June 11th, 2025 from a recently diagnosed glioblastoma. He was born November 6, 1944 in Superior, NE to Don and Lois Lichty. With his siblings Cheryl and Mike, he was raised on a farm east of Davenport. Darrel graduated from Davenport High School (1963), attended McPherson College and the University of Nebraska, and served in the Nebraska Army National Guard (1966-1972).

He married Connie Plambeck of Carpenter WY on December 15, 1968, and together they built a family farm near Carleton, NE.

Darrel's son, Steven, was born in 1970, followed by daughter Shari in 1972. As a young husband and father, he farmed alongside his dad, brother Mike, and brother-in-law Ron Schroeder. They also had a custom harvest crew that traveled south to several states. Darrel farmed soybeans, corn, wheat, and alfalfa. He continued farming even into retirement by doing custom work for local farmers.

He was active in the Carleton community and Bethel Church of the Brethren and later Geneva Evangelical Free Church. Both Darrel and Connie served with the Brethren Disaster Relief and had the opportunity to serve and assist on multiple occasions.

Darrel treasured small-town life, where everyone knew your name, resources were shared, and neighbors genuinely cared for one another. He served on Carleton's Rural Fire Board—though his slight pyromaniac tendencies occasionally kept the department busy with minor mishaps.

Darrel and Connie hosted several exchange students over the years as well as hosting Shawna Kenley Volle during her time at Bruning High School.

In later years, Darrel and Connie volunteered at Wycliffe Bible Translators in Texas and also served with Youth With A Mission in Kona, HI where they volunteered their time in maintenance and meal service. They also did a Crossroads Discipleship Training School with YWAM.

Darrel enjoyed a variety of hobbies over the years ranging from flying a

Cessna, fixing up three-wheelers, racing stock cars, traveling, collecting toy tractors, and attending his kid's events in Carleton and Shickley. He was always willing to lend a hand to a neighbor in need and could fix almost anything ranging from farm equipment, washing machines, and of course his beloved collection of Prius. Using a YouTube video, some JB Weld and duct tape, there was no project he wouldn't tackle.

Darrel and Connie enjoyed living in Topeka, KS for one school year where they were across the street from their Grandkid's school. This house was lovingly called "Grammy's Grub House" and many meals and memories were shared during that time.

One of Darrel's most beloved titles was Grampy and he loved spending time with Dominick, Boaz, Emmalia, Jachin, Jesiah, Tobias and Megan. Memories were made working on the farm, building Legos, reading together, catching fish and fixing multiple vehicles. Darrel accepted Jesus Christ as His Lord and Savior early in his marriage and is thankful for the mercy that has been shown to him. He knows that when God the Father looks at Darrel Lynn Lichty, God sees the perfect record of His son Jesus covering him because he is a beloved, chosen and forgiven Child of God.

Darrel leaves behind his wife Connie of 56 years; son Steven Lichty (Nairobi, Kenya); daughter Shari Bonura and husband Doug (Berryton, Kansas); seven grandchildren; sister Cheryl Bredensteiner and husband Gary, Sister-in-law Carol Lichty and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Mike Lichty; and brother-in-law Ron Schroeder.

Cemetery Details

Bethel Cemetery

2494 Rd 5500
Carleton, NE 68326

Previous Events

Family Present for Book Signing

JUN 20. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home
242 N 10th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
(402) 759-3617
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Book Signing

JUN 20. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home
242 N 10th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
(402) 759-3617
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Farmer & Son Funeral Home Facebook Livestream

JUN **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Evangelical Free Church of Geneva
230 N 17th St
Geneva, NE 68361-1607
(402) 759-4067

It will begin approximately around 1:50 p.m. on Saturday. You do not have to have a Facebook account to view the livestream.

Memorial Service

JUN **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Evangelical Free Church of Geneva
230 N 17th St
Geneva, NE 68361-1607
(402) 759-4067

Tribute Wall



“ 25 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - June 21, 2025 at 04:04 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darrel L. Lichty.



June 20, 2025 at 11:33 AM

“ Despite miles of separation all these years, I had the privilege of getting to know my cousin's husband well and always enjoyed our times together. I'd like to mention a few experiences that made Darrel very special in my eyes. When my son was maybe 10, he and Darrel had a massive water fight, starting with super soakers, escalating to a water hose (in Darrel's hand!) and finally he dumped a big cooler full of water on the boy! This was an incredible experience for my son--a grown man playing with him in a water war!

Everyone who knew Darrel, knows he was a FARMER. We "city slickers" don't really understand what that means unless we follow along. (Please forgive my failure to remember proper terms). My family and I loved a ride in the combine with Darrel. He took me with him to check his pivot, held me steady to stand up high enough to take pictures. He explained how he could program it (and showed me the holes in a bin that happened before he got the pivot programmed)! He rigged up a ladder high into the sky to do an adjustment on the part where the water shoots out--scared me!! I got to watch him fill his big truck full of corn from a bin and drive to the place where he sold the corn--it was poured into an underground receptacle. Darrel answered all my questions about the processes from buying seed, planting, fertilizing, harvesting, storage, and selling. There was so much more too about running the whole business, buying and maintaining equipment, regulations and law. I remember saying, "Darrel, you farmers are today's Renaissance Men!"

Other memorable activities with Darrel include his gardening. He built a "skeleton" shaped like a quonset hut on which green beans climbed; we could walk through the densely grown bean tunnel and pick beans that hung down! Darrel, his grandchildren, and I then sat on the porch, snapping beans and filling quart jars for Connie. Darrel kept the work lively and got everyone to contribute to the fun.

When I inquired as to how he ground the wheat for Connie's bread,

Darrel demonstrated the process for me. Another time when we all went to his field of sweet corn, he showed me how to pick the ripe ears. (I failed more often than not)! At the farm we shucked buckets of corn (to eat--unbelievably delicious--and to freeze). That process was a well-organized assembly line and Darrel's part was cutting the corn off the ears after they were blanched. I could barely keep up with him putting cups of corn into ziplocks and labeling them. Darrel was also a master fruit salad maker--giant bowls of every kind of fruit to feed the whole family.

Darrel was always kind enough to include me. One time when we drove to Wyoming, Darrel loaded a huge amount of corn into the car to share with cousins--It was work to keep the corn cool. I found it delightful that he always had a bag of sunflower seeds next to him in the car to snack on the entire way. Another trip to Kansas, Darrel loaded a big recliner into the Prius for the pleasure of his grandchildren. I didn't think it possible!

I have so many more lovely memories, but this is getting lengthy! Two last things I'll mention are, first, his sweet relationship with his grandchildren. Grampy loved them and did special things with and for them from baby times to adulthood. Second, Darrel could have been a veterinarian...I watched him treat little kittens who had goopy eyes and I've heard many stories of the Kitty Whisperer at work.

Darrel was a special person. We'll all miss him greatly. Love to all his family members and friends.

Cousin Janet

Janet - June 16, 2025 at 06:28 PM

BC

“ I am so sorry to hear of Darrel's passing. I remember how much fun he was at Boaz and Alyssa's wedding in Colorado. I remember the hugs at 4th of July celebrations in Topeka. Lots of love to you and your family.

Beverley Carlson - June 15, 2025 at 09:18 AM

KK

“ So sorry for your loss. We have many fond memories of times spent with Bethel family-many of them at Darrel and Connie's farm and with others from the church. ❤️

Karen Kidney - June 14, 2025 at 01:51 PM

CP

“ My heart is stirred by the beautiful obituary. This was an amazing man and I am thankful to have the opportunity to know his daughter and son-in-law and their family through our mutual church. May God bless his family with assurance of His welcome to heaven.

Claire Phillips - June 14, 2025 at 11:02 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Darrel L. Lichty.



June 12, 2025 at 09:29 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Darrel L. Lichty.

June 12, 2025 at 09:29 AM

LH

“ *Linda Heinisch lit a candle in memory of Darrel Lichty*



Linda Heinisch - June 11, 2025 at 07:55 PM

KT

“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Darrel Lichty*



Kent & Rose Theobald - June 11, 2025 at 06:52 PM

JG

“ *Jason george lit a candle in memory of Darrel Lichty*



Jason george - June 11, 2025 at 05:00 PM