



## Rod Barney

September 14, 1953 - February 18, 2021

Rodney Lee Barney was born to Don and Iola (Moell) Barney on September 14, 1953 at Geneva, Nebraska and passed away February 18, 2021 at the Fillmore County Hospital in Geneva Nebraska at the age of 67 years, 5 months and 4 days. He was one of 5 children in the family.

Rod grew up in Shickley and was baptized and confirmed at the Methodist Church. He attended Shickley Public Schools graduating with the class of 1972. He excelled in track qualifying for state all 4 years in the hurdles. During high school, Rod worked at the Shickley airport and took pride in maintaining the airplanes starting his lifelong fascination with aircraft. Everyone in high school had a nickname and Rod's was 'Grandpa' which turned out to be his favorite role in life.

Rod was married to Rene' Lefever, his high school sweetheart, on May 10th 1975 and to them 2 sons were born.

From an early age Rod was a creator and builder often making something from nothing. He was never afraid to tackle any project no matter how difficult. Purchasing the old Methodist Church in Shickley he single handedly tore it down and salvaged the lumber that later became the new home that he built for his family. He had a fascination with how things worked which led to

experimenting with everything from wind and solar energy to creating an electric car. He enjoyed coming up with clever creations such as a fairy house in the hollowed tree to the treasure map scavenger hunt leading to the hand-crafted treasure chest somewhere on the farm.

Rod collected K-B series International trucks for decades. His dad used this type of truck in a well drilling business and Rod wanted to preserve that memory. His collecting led to many adventures across the state with his sons.

Rod always enjoyed time with his family through the martial arts. Whether teaching a class or his boys at home he had a special way of connecting with his students. He became a black belt instructor especially enjoying preparing kids for sparring competition. Many weekends were spent together traveling to Tae-kwon-do tournaments in the region.

Beekeeping became a passion after he was the recipient of an inherited hive that he reluctantly accepted. Like everything he took on, he taught himself how to handle bees and harvest honey for his family and friends. His young sons followed by his grandchildren were taught how to respect bees by being hands on, some more enthusiastic than others. He also enjoyed helping others get started with the hobby.

Rod devoted his life to his family. He was selfless. A quiet man, Rod strived to make the lives of those he loved comfortable and fulfilling.

Rod was preceded in death by his father Don Barney, brother David Barney, father-in-law Wayne Lefever and mother-in-law Pat Lefever.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years Rene'; mother Lola Barney of Shickley;

sons Shawn(Amanda)Barney of Strang and their children Elizabeth(Connor)Russell of Clarksville Tennessee, Kennedy, Aliviah and AJ of Strang; Brandon Barney and daughters Brianna and Natalee of Hickman; Sisters Donna Rosener of Breckenridge Colorado and Melodie(James)Spurling of Shickley; brother Steve(Cindy)Barney of Bloomfield; brother-in-law Craig Lefever of Tucson, Arizona and many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service for Rod was held on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Geneva, Nebraska. Pastor Doug Griger officiated the Memorial Service. Melissa Houchin accompanied the congregation in the singing of "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art."

A Graveside Committal of Ashes was held in the Geneva Public Cemetery following the Memorial Service.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at [www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com)

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **22**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Family Present for Visitation

FEB **22**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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

## Memorial Service

FEB **23**. 10:30 AM (CT)

United Methodist Church  
942 H Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3731  
[umc@windstream.net](mailto:umc@windstream.net)

## Graveside Service

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FEB **23** (CT)

Geneva Public Cemetery  
Geneva, NE 68361

# Tribute Wall

JJ

“ Rod worked for my parents at the airport in Shickley when I was a young girl so I spent a lot of time around him. He was always so much fun! I had the honor of being he and Rene's flower girl when they wed. He was, indeed, a very, very special human being with a kind and gentle soul and I absolutely loved and adored him. You will be missed, Rod!

*Jackie (Kothe) Jordan  
St George, Utah*

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**Jackie Jordan** - February 25, 2021 at 02:18 PM

MB

“ We are so very sorry to hear of your loss of Rod. We know that he will be deeply missed by all who loved and knew him.

*Sincerely,*

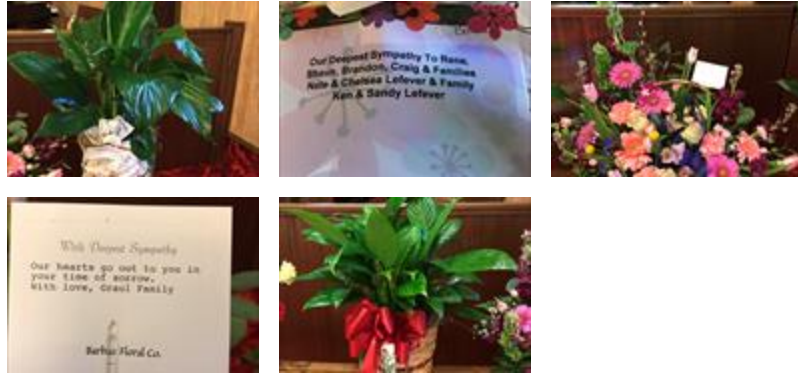
*Marvin & Bridgette (Flohrs) Brummer*

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**Marvin & Bridgette Brummer** - February 23, 2021 at 04:17 PM



“ 76 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - February 23, 2021 at 01:59 PM



“ Just watched memorial service. What a beautiful tribute to one great guy.  
Roland & Sandi Kassebaum

Roland Kassebaum - February 23, 2021 at 01:48 PM



“ Aunt Jean, Vicki, Linda, and Debby purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Rod Barney.



Aunt Jean, Vicki, Linda, and Debby - February 22, 2021 at 04:03 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rod Barney.*



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February 22, 2021 at 01:34 PM



“ *Jim White lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney*



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**Jim White** - February 22, 2021 at 01:14 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rod Barney.*



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February 22, 2021 at 02:21 AM



“ *I was fortunate to be a second cousin and friend of Rod. He was the first Shickley kid I met when we moved to a farm west of Shickley in '63. He was hard working and honest as the day is long.*

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**John F Hofferber** - February 22, 2021 at 12:20 AM

MB

“ *Marvin & Bridgette Brummer lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney*



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**Marvin & Bridgette Brummer** - February 21, 2021 at 11:30 PM

SR

“ *Sharon Gough Richardson lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney*



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**Sharon Gough Richardson** - February 21, 2021 at 10:25 AM

SS

“ *Steve And Barb Sadd lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney*



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**steve and barb sadd** - February 20, 2021 at 06:44 PM

JD

“ *Rod has been a favorite of mine since I taught him in first grade. Just really enjoyed knowing him and staying in touch through the years. He was an inspiration. I know he was a good grandpa, dad, and husband. God bless the family and may you cherish the memories. I will!*

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**Judy Dondlinger** - February 20, 2021 at 06:30 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rod Barney.*



February 20, 2021 at 05:33 PM



“ *So very sorry to hear this. Keeping you all in our thoughts & prayers.*



**Mike and Lynne Houser** - February 20, 2021 at 03:50 PM



“ *Dayle Turner lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney*



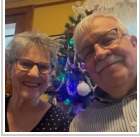
**Dayle Turner** - February 20, 2021 at 02:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rod Barney.*



February 20, 2021 at 02:24 PM



“ *Rhonda Schlick lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney*



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**Rhonda Schlick** - February 20, 2021 at 01:17 PM

BB

“ *There is not a more caring nor loving man I looked up too in my life. Being the first born everyone always tells me how he used to look at me. I will forever remember the endless memories of treasure hunts he put together for us kids or me looking up shaving his beard as a little kid. Grandpa was a man of endless talents and bits of knowledge and I truly can't put into words how much every hug ment to me!*



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**brianna barney** - February 20, 2021 at 12:35 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rod Barney.*



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February 20, 2021 at 11:03 AM

VA

“ Vicki Allgood lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney



Vicki Allgood - February 20, 2021 at 09:44 AM

GF

“ Graul Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Rod Barney.



Graul Family - February 20, 2021 at 09:43 AM

VJ

“ Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney



Virginia Johnson - February 20, 2021 at 08:55 AM

VY

“ Prayers to the Barney family...cherish your special memories....  
Verlene and Lynn Yates

Verlene Yates - February 19, 2021 at 11:29 PM

MB

“ Marge And Bob lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney



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**Marge And Bob** - February 19, 2021 at 11:15 PM



“ I so much enjoyed visiting with Rod at Shawn and Amanda's house as we celebrated grandkids birthday parties. He was a kind man who dearly loved his family. We will all miss you. My sincere sympathies to Rene and the family.

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**Cheryl Luzum** - February 19, 2021 at 09:20 PM

JJ

“ The man who inspired me to learn to juggle. The countless hours with Rod and Renee at the "old" Strang tavern with Kelly Eich and others. One of my favorite people .Such a down to earth and a fine fellow. Sorry for your and our loss. Jeff and Helen.

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**Jeff Johnson** - February 19, 2021 at 08:52 PM

CL

“ So sorry to hear of Rod's death. I have fond memories of him and your family. Blessings to Shawn and Brandon.

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**Chad Lauritsen** - February 19, 2021 at 05:14 PM

KT

“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney*



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**Kent & Rose Theobald** - February 19, 2021 at 04:24 PM

BR

“ *Bonnie Rippe lit a candle in memory of Rod Barney*



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**Bonnie Rippe** - February 19, 2021 at 02:19 PM

VJ

“ *Thoughts and prayers!!*



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**Virginia Johnson** - February 19, 2021 at 12:31 PM

BT

“ *Sympathy and prayers to the Barney families.  
Tom and Barb Trapp*



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**Barb Trapp** - February 19, 2021 at 10:47 AM

MB

*So sorry to her about Rod. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.*

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**Marcia Busse** - February 19, 2021 at 08:42 PM

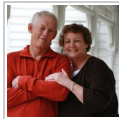
RK

*Rod was always the one I had the longest conversations with at family reunions. We talked farming, bee keeping, and solved all the world's problems. Fond memories in Shickley and Carleton. Condolences to his family and loved ones.*

*Roger Kassebaum Omaha, NE*

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**Roger Kassebaum** - February 20, 2021 at 05:47 PM



*So sorry to hear about Rod's passing. Our thoughts & prayers to his family.*

*Frank & Karla Slezak*

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**Karla Slezak** - February 21, 2021 at 10:43 PM