



Richard Allen Kirchner

November 28, 1935 - June 28, 2024

Richard Allen Kirchner, a lifetime farmer who worked his fields right up until the day he entered the hospital, died in Springfield, IL, on June 28, 2024, after a brief but fierce battle with pancreatitis. He was 88 years old.

He was born Thanksgiving Day in rural Virginia, IL, on November 28, 1935, to Frederick “Butch” and Nellie Irene (Fielden) Kirchner. He was the baby of the family and was especially loved by his big sister Nelda. He enjoyed showing cattle in 4-H and began his farming career at the early age of nine.

Rich attended Live Springs Country School, a one-room schoolhouse, through eighth grade, occasionally driving his teacher to school during the winter months. He attended Chandlerville High School, where he played quarterback in a leather helmet on their highly successful football team and was a starter for the equally successful basketball

team, earning a scar on his back from being thrown into the chairs on the old Chandlerville stage. He was also senior class president and attended Boys State, eventually graduating in 1953. Soon after, Rich assumed a full-time role on the family farm, beginning his lifelong passion for farm, family, and faith.

Following graduation, Rich met Norma Jean Hopper after seeing her at the school's annual Halloween Carnival. By May, he had given her a diamond, and on July 3, 1955, Rich and Norma Jean wed in Chandlerville, IL. They moved into their first house in the Sangamon River bottoms, where they raised all four of their amazing daughters. In 1977, they built a family home on the Beardstown blacktop, where they lived his remaining years.

Rich led a life of service. He served in the Army Reserves for eight years, from 1954 to 1962. A lifelong resident of Chandlerville, he was a member of the Sangamon Valley Presbyterian Church, Cass County Farm Bureau, Chandlerville Masonic Lodge #724, Chandlerville Chapter #544 Order of the Eastern Star, and the Chandlerville Board of Education. This particular 25-year commitment to education spawned a long line of teachers in the family.

Besides his love for all things farming, Rich also had a vested interest in family activities.

He was often seen in the bleachers at various sporting events: volleyball, softball, basketball, baseball, soccer, football, and track & field. He attended numerous choir and band concerts, musicals, and more graduations than most could keep up with. While he was a man of few words, he was an excellent storyteller, sharing neighborhood history and humorous tales of his youth in vivid detail. The river valley will forever hold memories of Rich—living, loving, and farming.

Rich was preceded in death by his parents, his sisters Nelda Henry and Muriel Dodds

Reddish, and his brother Paul Kirchner. He is survived by a large and boisterous family:

four daughters, Cindy (Marke) Bobbitt of Virginia, IL; Lisa (Brian) Privia of Virginia, IL;

Pat (Ken) Abbott of Garland, TX; and Kris (Hugh) Carlock of Chandlerville, IL; twenty-nine grandchildren, Nicki (Jim) Graham, Josh (Mindy) Marr, Ellen Marr, Emily

Bobbitt, Mathew Bobbitt, Brant (Kathie) Privia, Kara Martin, Emily (Eddie) Legner,

Krista (John) Kobos, Richard Abbott, Steven (Audrey) Abbott, John Abbott, Jean

(Aaron) Bray, Cole (Rachel) Carlock, Wes (Rachel) Carlock, Regan (Reed) Collins,

Micah (Galdino) Guijosa, and Ferin Carlock; and 31 great-grandchildren with

one on the way. Rich was larger than life and the best example of what a husband, father, granddad, and friend should be.

Rich had a strong faith and lived a beautiful and full life with Norma Jean, the love of his life. Just shy of their 69th wedding anniversary, Richard leaves behind a legacy of loyalty and love, which will help guide and support those he has left behind until they meet him again.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Sangamon Valley Presbyterian Church.

Visitation is planned for Tuesday, July 2 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. with a funeral service and graveside rites on Wednesday, July 3 at 10:00 a.m. at Hurley Funeral Home in Chandlerville.

Cemetery Details

Chandlerville Cemetery

Chandlerville, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Lintner Hurley Funeral Home - Chandlerville
255 South Main Street
P.O. Box #346
Chandlerville, IL 62627
(217) 458-2424
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Masonic and Eastern Star Service

JUL 2. 7:00 PM (CT)

Lintner Hurley Funeral Home - Chandlerville
255 South Main Street
P.O. Box #346
Chandlerville, IL 62627
(217) 458-2424
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Funeral Service

JUL 3. 10:00 AM (CT)

Lintner Hurley Funeral Home - Chandlerville
255 South Main Street
P.O. Box #346
Chandlerville, IL 62627
(217) 458-2424
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Interment

JUL 3 (CT)

Chandlerville Cemetery
Chandlerville, IL

Tribute Wall



“ Hurley Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Richard Allen Kirchner



Hurley Funeral Home - July 01, 2024 at 05:36 PM

AS

“ Deepest sympathy to you all.
Sincerely,
Anita Leinberger Stephans

Anita Stephans - July 02, 2024 at 10:24 PM

PN

“ Paul and Cindy Napper purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Richard Allen Kirchner.



Paul and Cindy Napper - July 02, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Richard Allen Kirchner.



July 02, 2024 at 01:40 PM

BS

“ Bobby, Lanae, Elle, Lyla and Ivy Smither planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Allen Kirchner.

Bobby, Lanae, Elle, Lyla and Ivy Smither - July 02, 2024 at 01:40 PM

DA

“ Dave & Dorothy Anderson purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Richard Allen Kirchner.



Dave & Dorothy Anderson - July 01, 2024 at 04:13 PM

DA

“ Dave & Dorothy Anderson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Allen Kirchner.

Dave & Dorothy Anderson - July 01, 2024 at 04:13 PM

RD

“ Ray and Deb Hurley and The Dalbeys purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Richard Allen Kirchner.



Ray and Deb Hurley and The Dalbeys - July 01, 2024 at 03:53 PM

VF

“ Virginia Lee, Rob, Gretchen, and family. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Richard Allen Kirchner.



Virginia Lee, Rob, Gretchen, and family. - July 01, 2024 at 10:49 AM

CO

“ Sending prayers to the Kirchner family at this time.

Carol Orwig - July 01, 2024 at 10:42 AM

AS

“ A-C Central Elementary School Staff purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Richard Allen Kirchner.



A-C Central Elementary School Staff - July 01, 2024 at 09:37 AM

AS

“ A-C Central Elementary School Staff planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Allen Kirchner.

A-C Central Elementary School Staff - July 01, 2024 at 09:37 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Richard Allen Kirchner.



July 01, 2024 at 02:20 AM



“ With much love, Rachel Abbott planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Allen Kirchner.

With much love, Rachel Abbott - July 01, 2024 at 02:20 AM



“ Condolences to Norma Kirchner and all of the families. You have my deepest sympathy.
Cheryl Hahn



Cheryl Hahn - June 30, 2024 at 10:39 PM



“ Greg Lange purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Richard Allen Kirchner.



Greg Lange - June 30, 2024 at 07:05 PM

JC

“ Jane & John Calaway purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Richard Allen Kirchner.



Jane & John Calaway - June 30, 2024 at 03:00 PM

TR

“ The Rivas purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Richard Allen Kirchner.



The Rivas - June 30, 2024 at 09:50 AM

TR

“ The Rivas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Allen Kirchner.

The Rivas - June 30, 2024 at 09:50 AM

LH

“ Larry and Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Richard Kirchner



Larry and Mary Hundt - June 30, 2024 at 08:44 AM