



Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown

September 28, 1941 - February 27, 2026

Russell Wayne "Sonny" Brown, Sr., 84, passed away at the Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, IL. He was born on September 28, 1941 in Pekin, IL to his parents Lawrence E. Brown and Marie Elizabeth (McMullen) Brown. Sonny married Martha G. Schlueter on March 10, 1962 in Quincy, IL.

Sonny leaves behind his loving wife Martha of 64 years; his children Tracie (Moe) Bauer, Rusty (Michelle) Brown, Kim (Scott) Bender; his grandchildren: Haleigh Bauer, Wade (Bayley) Bauer, Tyler Brown, Camden Brown, Chase Bender, Connor Bender, and Cooper Bender. He was preceded in death by his sister, Kay Wehner, and his parents.

Sonny could fix anything and was known to be a jack of all trades. He enjoyed welding, mechanical work, and was especially proud of the many classic vehicles he restored himself. He was self-employed and genuinely loved to work, keeping busy, and having projects to tend to.

The services will be held at Maas Hurley Funeral Home in Manito on Thursday, March 5, 2026 with a visitation from 9 to 11 AM, funeral service at 11 AM, and the burial immediately following at Meadow Lawn Cemetery.

Memorials in Sonny's name can be made to the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home.

Cemetery Details

Meadow Lawn Cemetery

801 E. Meadow Lawn St.
Manito, IL 61546

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 5. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Maas Hurley Funeral Home - Manito
301 S. Washington St.
P.O. Box #442
Manito, IL 61546
(309) 968-6157
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Funeral Service

MAR 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Maas Hurley Funeral Home - Manito
301 S. Washington St.
P.O. Box #442
Manito, IL 61546
(309) 968-6157
<https://www.hurleyfh.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Blain and Ashlee Messman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown.*



Blain and Ashlee Messman - March 04 at 04:25 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown.*

March 03 at 09:18 AM



“ *Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown.*



March 03 at 09:18 AM

JH

“ Sonny was an exceptional man and a master of his craft. He was always available when we needed him, regardless of the time of day or week. My father, the late Dan Harris, had a special friendship with Sonny, and he would be the first to admit that we would not have achieved as much as he did without good people like Sonny. I learned a lot from being around him and have always had great respect for his knowledge, work ethic, and, most of all, his always-friendly personality. Rest in peace, "Stud".

Jim Harris and family, Mason County Transfer, Mason City

Jim Harris - March 02 at 12:02 PM

LH

“ Larry And Mary Hundt sent a virtual gift in memory of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown



Larry and Mary Hundt - March 01 at 08:54 AM

DH

“ Dawn & John Harberts planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown.

Dawn & John Harberts - February 28 at 10:49 PM

DH

“ Dawn & John Harberts purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown.



Dawn & John Harberts - February 28 at 10:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown.

February 28 at 09:16 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown.



February 28 at 09:16 PM



“ Love, Chris and Heidi Schlueter planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown.

Love, Chris and Heidi Schlueter - February 28 at 08:45 PM



“ Love, Chris and Heidi Schlueter purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown.



Love, Chris and Heidi Schlueter - February 28 at 08:45 PM

CC

“ Cheryl Cockerham lit a candle in memory of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown



Cheryl Cockerham - February 28 at 08:12 PM

LT

“ Localboyzz Trucking purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Russell "Sonny" Wayne Brown.



Localboyzz Trucking - February 28 at 07:05 PM