



## Michael Wayne Reeves

August 8, 1950 - April 28, 2023

Michael Wayne Reeves, 72, of Central City, died unexpectedly on Friday, April 28, 2023 in Imperial, Nebraska. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at United Methodist Church in Central City with Pastor Gordon Paulsen officiating. Visitation will be held on Tuesday, May 2nd from 5-7 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Central City. Interment will be held at the Central City Cemetery. American Legion Post #6 will provide military honors.

Memorials are suggested to the Central City Legion Baseball Program, Imperial Legion Baseball Program, Merrick County 4-H, or Chase County 4-H. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.soltwagnerfuneral.com](http://www.soltwagnerfuneral.com).

On August 8, 1950, Michael Wayne Reeves was born to Barton and Barbara (Sheppard) Reeves at the Central City Hospital. Mike grew up on the family farm just outside of Central City and attended District 37 grade school. He graduated from Central City High School. He went to college at Hastings Central Community College and served in the United States Army from 1969-1971. He wed Deborah Stufft on October 14, 1972 and they were blessed with two sons, James and Dan.

There were so many things that were good about Mike, it's impossible to start and stop. He loved his community, his farm and pretty much everyone he met. He joked, laughed and made people feel like they mattered, because to him,

they did.

He was a husband for more than 50 years. Though he and Deb had very different personalities, they never wavered in their determination to fulfill God's command, "Till death do we part".

God made that final decision for Mike on April 28, as he was going to pick up two granddaughters for school in Imperial. Like his father and grandfather, his huge and kind heart suddenly stopped beating. He was everywhere in the Central City community and quickly became a part of the Imperial Community when Dan and Tiffany settled there. He helped James farm, irrigate, and fix things. He loved it when sports schedules would put him in Imperial for several days in a row because he could "farm" or just do projects with Dan. In fact, his last day was spent helping his youngest son "get things done". If Katie or Tiffany had a need, all they had to do was let it be known and it would quickly be done. He may have been a boy dad to begin with, but he embraced his two 'daughters' as if they were his own flesh and blood, and quickly became the best girl dad a daughter-in-law could ask for. Many times you would find him doing for Katie and Tiffany the 'honey-do's' his sons would perhaps ignore on purpose knowing dad would take care of it. He worked in the fertilizer industry for more than 20 years. His customers got all he had to give. He treated their 10,000 + total acres like his own. Then came the chance to farm. He often said his worst day of farming was better than his best day in the fertilizer business. He took over the family farm and worked with his dad, his Uncle Spud and both his sons. He and James farmed as partners for almost 20 years before Mike retired.

He definitely taught James and Dan how to work. They chopped sunflowers on hot days, picked up branches and basically did every job he asked of them. Most of the time, he worked alongside them, showing them, and teaching them. He taught them to check and recheck everything, from every bolt to every bill. Full gas tanks, tires and oil checked, maintenance and reading the manual was the way Mike did things and life was easier when done his way. His sons blessed him with two daughters-in-law. When Katie (Hahn) and

Tiffany (Russell) became part of the family, life just got better.

Oh how he loved his children, grandchildren and children who belonged to other people! He never got tired of watching young athletes go from tripping over their shadows to becoming state champions. He cheered louder than anyone in the stands. His nine grandchildren gave him nine more to teach, to help, to guide. He didn't know how his life would change; how good it would get with those little ones who quickly grew to be big ones. From Rodeos, to Ranch Horse Shows, Basketball, Baseball, Volleyball, Wrestling, Football, Track, and Trap you could see their eyes searching the stands for grandpa. If they couldn't see him in the stands, they could hear him! More than once, he would arrive before the team or the horses, not wanting to be late!

It's heartbreaking to know they will look to the stands and won't see him. He will be there, though....every minute, every event. The last few years, the tears flowed freely with each success and heartbreak as the pride he felt for them was too much to hold inside. No matter what—school, sports, friends or parents—they knew they could count on his arm around their shoulder and a “you'll be ok” speech.

When he wasn't cheering, he loved razor riding on trips out of state with good friends, coffee at Herks, and a beer with the boys. The cabin at the river was his favorite spot the last few years. So many days ended with a drive to the cabin or just a drive to watch the sun set on a day well spent.

Mike was a member of the American Legion Lone Tree Post #6. He served on the Veteran's Service Board, the Baseball Committee, and the committee for the Memorial in South Park.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Mike is survived by his wife Deb Reeves of Central City. His sons and their families. James and Katie Reeves of Central City and their children Chesney, Logan and Lincoln. Dan and Tiffany Reeves of Imperial and their children Elizabeth, Thomas, Alexandria, Rebecca, Gianna, and Katherine. His sisters,

Marcia (Mike) Ferguson of Grand Island and Diane Reeves of Columbus  
Nebraska.

God Speed Mike. One day we will learn how to do this thing called life without  
you.

# Cemetery Details

## Central City Cemetery

Central City, NE 68826

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Central City United Methodist Church  
2601 18th Ave  
Central City, NE 68826  
(308) 946-2853

## Funeral Service

MAY 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Central City United Methodist Church  
2601 18th Ave  
Central City, NE 68826  
(308) 946-2853

# Tribute Wall

DY

“ *To Mike Reeves' family  
I am thrilled that I knew the Reeves family via all their fun trips to Albany WY and jeeping on the Platte River. MANY GOOD MEMORIES OF SMILES, LAUGHTER, FRIENDSHIP, AND GOOD TIMES TOGETHER AT THE CABIN, ALBANY LODGE and the RIVER. Losing a parent/spouse is one of the most difficult parts of life. May your faith, prayers, and memories help you celebrate your loved one. We send our sincere sympathy from Dave and Marilyn Yeutter*

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**Dave and Marilyn Yeutter** - May 02, 2023 at 09:26 PM

SO

“ *When I was in the 3rd and 4th grade we lived near Mike and his family. He and I would meet by the Stubbe Dairy Farm intersection in the morning and ride our bikes to and from school together. I have fond memories of our time in country school. From the obituary, I can tell he grew up to be a wonderful man much loved by all. My sympathy to his family and sisters. I will remember Mike and all of you in prayer these days.*

*Sister Mary Kay (Kathleen) Panowicz OSB*

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**S Mary Kay Panowicz OSB** - May 02, 2023 at 03:32 PM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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May 02, 2023 at 03:19 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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May 02, 2023 at 01:01 PM



“ *I am saddened to hear of the death of Mike. He was a guy you could envy without resentment as he was so warm and engaging in all my encounters with him. He was a joyous bright soul, with that ever-present smile. Mike has a beautiful family, which he loved and enjoyed very much and was very proud of each child and grandchild's achievement. He often shared their accomplishments with his friends, not in boastful manner but with a gleam in his eye and a glow on his face that comes only from a deep and shared mutual love. We should have no regrets about his life other than it was far too brief. God blessed us all when he loaned Mike to us.*

*Ray Huggett*

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**Ray Huggett** - May 02, 2023 at 11:45 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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May 01, 2023 at 11:03 PM

IA

“ *In Him, Sam and Marsha Alexander purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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**In Him, Sam and Marsha Alexander** - May 01, 2023 at 09:39 PM

SA

“ *Dear Deb and family,  
We are thinking about you and praying for you to find the courage to help see you through day by day. We hope your memories will warm your hearts and bring much comfort your way. You are in our thoughts and will be kept in our daily prayers.  
With Heartfelt Sympathy and  
Love from Your friends,  
Sam & Marsha Alexander*

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**Sam Alexander** - May 01, 2023 at 09:01 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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May 01, 2023 at 07:51 PM

KS

“ So incredibly saddened to hear of Mike's passing. I always enjoyed having him in the stands when Jake was wrestling. And yes, he was the biggest fan. He was so proud of his children and grandchildren. He will truly be missed by so many.

Kim (Brown) Schlachter - May 01, 2023 at 07:22 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.



May 01, 2023 at 06:28 PM

KB

“ What a beautiful tribute to a big-hearted gentleman. We'll miss your smile, your laugh, and your kindness.

Kerry Bruning - May 01, 2023 at 12:15 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.



May 01, 2023 at 11:35 AM

CS

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the family in this difficult time. Mike was a great man. Choose the special qualities of Mike to become your best qualities too. Cherish the memories. Carol & Paul Shively

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**Carol Shively** - May 01, 2023 at 11:27 AM

JS

*Deb and families, I am so sorry for your loss! Mike was a great guy and always full of laughs, enjoyed him a lot when he would come into the bank. He will really be missed!!❤️*

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**Joni Smith** - May 01, 2023 at 01:12 PM

NV

“ My condolences to the family, very sorry for your loss. My memories of being a kid in Central City have faded quite a bit, but when I think of Mr. Reeves, it's easy to recall a few things because he was an impactful, memorable person. I was never that good at baseball, but I wanted to be. I didn't play past age 15 or so. But when I did play, I think Mike could tell I cared. I had moments, but every year would struggle at least to start off. One time after a bad game for me at the plate, Mike came out to our house in the country after a game to give me encouragement and some suggestions on what I could work on. He didn't have to do that. I wasn't a key player or anything, and it was just kids baseball. But I still remember that and really appreciated it. If I didn't show it then, I thought about it later on as I grew up and how thoughtful that was. I was an assistant coach in a youth basketball league a couple of years ago and really tried to be encouraging and watch for kids that were getting down on themselves. So when Mike did things like that, he was not only encouraging the kid, but giving them a good lesson to carry on and influence others in the future. Another moment I remember was high school basketball, I think my senior year, diving out of bounds to save a ball and landing in the first row on Mike. He was ok of course, a tough guy. But I was even thinking at the time, Mike's here watching us even though Dan's a wrestler. Later as we were older, I saw Mike at a big antique show my family went to in Iowa. He even took the time to express appreciation there for my athletic transformation over the years while I was in school. I'm noting this because it was mentioned in the obituary that he enjoyed watching kids go from tripping over their own shadows to state champs. I was never a state champ, but I made some definite progress, and the encouragement from people like Mike particularly was like fuel. Here's a tough, respected guy with a tough, respected son in my class taking the time to encourage me. And it's not like he didn't have plenty of other things to do. Rest in Peace Mr. Reeves. You remain influential and appreciated. Your effect will carry on.

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**Nik Vetter** - May 01, 2023 at 11:16 AM



“ *Gable Gift Box was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



May 01, 2023 at 11:09 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



May 01, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ *Deb, James, and Dan, I'm so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. He was someone that I always counted on seeing at sporting events and when I would see him around town, I couldn't pass by him without saying hi and ask how he was doing. Mike was a great man and he will be missed!*

**Jason McMahon** - May 01, 2023 at 10:35 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



May 01, 2023 at 09:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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May 01, 2023 at 09:21 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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May 01, 2023 at 09:19 AM



“ *Ashley Thompson purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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**Ashley Thompson** - May 01, 2023 at 08:35 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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May 01, 2023 at 01:40 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



May 01, 2023 at 12:20 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



April 30, 2023 at 10:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



April 30, 2023 at 09:59 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of his passing. He was a great man and really cared for the kids in the community. He was easy to talk with and always had a smile on his face. He will truly be missed. We are thinking of the family in this hard time. The Gallion's*

**Maryjo Gallion** - April 30, 2023 at 09:55 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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April 30, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *I was very saddened to learn that Mike has passed. His family attended the same church in Central City as mine - and I'd known him since Sunday School. His Mom was my swimming instructor when I was still very young. Even though I'd moved away from Nebraska and the US - whenever we bumped into each other on one of my visits home - he always greeted me warmly as if we'd been neighbours all along. There weren't many like him. Deepest sympathy to Deb and family.*

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**Daniel Tyler** - April 30, 2023 at 09:12 PM



*Sorry - was mistaken about Barb being my swimming instructor - but I think she played in a little band at my wedding.*

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**Daniel Tyler** - April 30, 2023 at 09:17 PM



“ *Deb and family: I was saddened to hear about Mike. Such a great guy. I knew Spud and Barton through baseball, and what a great family they are. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family. God Bless. He was the best!*

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**Larry Munn** - April 30, 2023 at 08:43 PM



“ *Tender Tribute was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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April 30, 2023 at 08:37 PM



“ *Kathy Decker Shultz purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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**Kathy Decker Shultz** - April 30, 2023 at 06:16 PM



“ *Only met Mike a couple times with Marsha and liked him from the start.*

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**art scott** - April 30, 2023 at 06:04 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



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April 30, 2023 at 05:26 PM

AB

“ So sorry to hear of Mike’s passing. As a kid, he was an imposing figure. I remember being “hired” to pick up sticks in the field after a thunderstorm. He wrote me a check and said, with a wink, “Just don’t cash it until next week.” Mike was a fixture at our football games and track meets, and he always made sure to tell us we had a good game. Sending the family peace during this difficult time. - Aaron Bowen

Aaron Bowen - April 30, 2023 at 05:14 PM

BH

“ I remember attending District 37 together - playing softball, climbing the swing set - picnic at North Park - wish we could have seen each other more Bev

Bev Reeves Holm - April 30, 2023 at 04:42 PM

BT

“ Bev Holm, Wanda, Rhonda, Deva and Tom purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.



Bev Holm, Wanda, Rhonda, Deva and Tom - April 30, 2023 at 04:38 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.



April 30, 2023 at 04:18 PM

LM

“ Mike was a great guy and solid friend. He was always good for a hug and laugh. He will be missed. Deb and all, I'm sending you prayers as you adjust to the new reality you will explore. Love and peace. Keep the faith—Linda Mercer

Linda Mercer - April 30, 2023 at 03:45 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.



April 30, 2023 at 03:41 PM

GC

“ Mike was a good friend of mine . Ten years as my Competitor, ten years working with him as a Crop Consultant. We challenged each other in sales growing our business substantially! Working with him as a Farmer for a while till I retired early from the Industry. I have a lot of stories to remember of happenings we've had together over the years!! Mike's strong points were working with people and a love for Family! He will be missed by Everyone! Sending Our Sympathy to entire Family !! 🙏

Gary Clayton - April 30, 2023 at 03:24 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.



April 30, 2023 at 03:07 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



April 30, 2023 at 02:52 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



April 30, 2023 at 02:51 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael Wayne Reeves.*



April 30, 2023 at 02:44 PM



“ *What a great obituary! Just like Mike? Jim knew him better than I did but always enjoyed talking to him. One day on one of our drives we saw him be his garden and he gave us some great veggies. Have known his sisters better so sending love and hugs to them and of course Deb and boys and families.*

**Janet Boulton** - April 30, 2023 at 02:40 PM

DF

“ We prayed at Fairview this morning our most Heartfelt Sympathy to the family.

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**Deb Friend** - April 30, 2023 at 01:55 PM