



Steven R. Kelso

July 9, 1963 - April 16, 2026

Steven Ray Kelso, 62, of Central City, died on Thursday, April 16, 2026 at UNMC in Omaha. Memorial services will be held on Friday, April 24, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. at United Methodist Church in Central City with Pastor Mark Hartley officiating. Visitation will be held on Thursday, April 23rd from 5-7 p.m. at Solt-Wagner Funeral Home in Central City. Burial of ashes will be held at a later date. The family requests that everyone who is a first responder or a student of one of Steve's EMT classes to wear their uniform to the visitation or memorial service. They also request everyone else to wear casual or Husker attire.

Memorials are suggested to the family to be designated at a later time. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.soltwagnerfuneral.com.

Steve was born on July 9, 1963 to Raymond and Helene (Jacobs) Kelso in Lincoln. He grew up in Central City and graduated from Central City High School in 1981. He then began working for Bonnavilla in 1982, and remained there until 2007. On December 14, 1985 Steve was united in marriage to Wanda Zornes. To this union were two children, Alyssa and Kristopher. In 2007 he started working for the State of Nebraska, with the Housing and Recreational Vehicle Division. He eventually worked his way up to become the Director of that department. He was also an EMT and CPR Instructor, as well as serving on the Central City Ambulance and Volunteer Fire Department for

many years. Steve was then united in marriage to Elizabeth Rogers on March 27, 2026. They had one daughter, Mila Jo. Steve remained active within the community until recently when his health no longer allowed him to.

Steve was a former director of the Central City Ambulance, he also was an EMT, Volunteer Firefighter, and a member of the Sportsman's Club in Central City. Steve enjoyed camping, working on vehicles, riding his motorcycle, and watching NASCAR. He was also a huge Nebraska Cornhuskers and Minnesota Vikings fan and loved to decorate for any holiday.

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife, Elizabeth of Central City; his children, Alyssa (Jonathan) Schafer of Central City, Kristopher (Rachel Jilg) Kelso of Grand Island, Mila Jo Kelso of Central City, his stepson; Dominic Kuszak of Central City; his siblings, Vicki (Allen) Smith of Papillion, Margaret (Rick) Polzkill of Papillion, Pamela (Craig) Tunks of Central City, Vaughn (Teri) Kelso of Hickman; and his grandsons, Tallan Kelso and Beckham Schafer; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his first wife, Wanda Kelso; his brother, Vernon Kelso; and step-father, Jim Larsen.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **23**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Solt-Wagner Funeral Home
1507 17th St.
Central City, NE 68826
(308) 946-3303
soltwagnerfuneral@gmail.com
<https://www.wagnerfuneral.com/>

Memorial Service

APR **24**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

CM

“ Steve was a dedicated public servant who took great pride in his work. It was obvious to everyone, that he put his whole heart into being the best. His professionalism was only outdone by his warm friendly demeanor. Steve will be greatly missed.

Christian Mirch - April 23 at 11:48 PM

TT

“ Steve was a fantastic instructor for my First Responder class and definitely a reason I continued my EMS education. Such a great guy, sending prayers.

Tiffany Tracy - April 23 at 03:01 PM

TH

“ I considered Steve a good friend, in addition to being an excellent EMS Instructor. He always had the right balance of information, fun, and practical skills for us at the EMT level. He will be deeply missed in the volunteer EMS community. The Members of Clarkson Rescue offer our deepest sympathies. Tom Hamernik-EMT

Tom Hamernik - April 23 at 01:09 PM

GR

“ Greeley Fire and Rescue purchased the Sweet Liberty for the family of Steven R. Kelso.



Greeley Fire and Rescue - April 23 at 11:09 AM

LK

“ So sorry to hear of Steve's passing. From the little time I knew him, I saw he was a great guy. Thank you Steve for showing Liz what real true love is. I will always be grateful to you for that! You will be greatly missed!!

Lisa Kehler - April 22 at 12:29 PM



“ Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Steven R. Kelso.



April 22 at 12:25 PM

RD

“ Randy, Linda , Jeanette, Terry and Donna purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Steven R. Kelso.



Randy, Linda , Jeanette, Terry and Donna - April 21 at 11:59 PM

RD

“ Randy, Linda , Jeanette, Terry and Donna planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven R. Kelso.

Randy, Linda , Jeanette, Terry and Donna - April 21 at 11:59 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Steven R. Kelso.*



April 21 at 06:26 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Steven R. Kelso.*



April 21 at 04:29 PM



“ *Adam, Meghan, and Carly & family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Steven R. Kelso.*



Adam, Meghan, and Carly & family - April 21 at 10:37 AM



“ *Adam, Meghan, and Carly & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven R. Kelso.*

Adam, Meghan, and Carly & family - April 21 at 10:37 AM

BJ

“ Steve will be missed by many of the EMT's he taught throughout his career. He always showed up with a smile and a laugh when he came and taught classes for us in Platte Center. You all are in my thoughts and prayers.

*Barb Johnson
Platte Center Rescue*

Barb Johnson - April 20 at 07:55 PM

BS

“ My deepest condolences to the entire extended family and friends! I only had the pleasure of meeting Steve once!



Brian Schlote - April 20 at 06:07 PM

KJ

“ I am so sorry to read of the passing of Steve. We took instructor class together back in 2000 and taught several times together at winter conference.
You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Way too young.
Kristi Jochum

Kristi Jochum - April 20 at 04:27 PM

PE

“ Palmer EMTs purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Steven R. Kelso.



Palmer EMTs - April 20 at 01:24 PM

PE

“ Palmer EMTs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Steven R. Kelso.

Palmer EMTs - April 20 at 01:24 PM