



Neil Richard Wagner

July 25, 1948 - April 6, 2026

Neil Richard Wagner, age 77, of Granby, Missouri, passed away on Monday, April 6, 2026, at Mercy Hospital in Joplin, Missouri, with family by his side. Neil was born on July 25, 1948, in Joplin, Missouri, the son of Frederick and Bernice (Kutz) Wagner. He graduated from Sarcoxie High School in 1966 and soon after proudly joined the United States Army. Neil served his country during the Vietnam War, completing four military campaigns and attaining the rank of Technical Sergeant. On July 11, 1970, Neil married the love of his life, LouAnn (Cole) Wagner, in Monett, Missouri. Together they built a life centered on family, hard work, and a whole lot of laughter.

Neil spent his career working for Burlington Northern Railroad and later the Missouri Department of Transportation, where he eventually retired. But retirement didn't slow him down—not one bit. Neil always had something going on. Many days were happily spent out on the farm with his dog Chloe by his side. Whether he was farming, piddling with tractors and equipment, or driving a semi-truck with his grandson, Neil's "work" was really just another way to spend time with the people—and—animals he loved.

Neil never knew a stranger, and if you met him, you never quite knew what he was going to say next. He had a quick wit, a sharp sense of humor, and always a joke or story ready to go. He loved visiting over coffee, breakfast, or lunch—or any excuse to sit and talk awhile. In his quieter moments, Neil enjoyed fishing, farming, and watching or participating in tractor pulls. More than anything, he enjoyed being with others, making connections, and sharing a laugh.

Neil will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and the many people whose lives were brighter simply because they knew him.

His memory remains in the hearts of his two daughters, Heather Wilson of Joplin, Missouri, and Amanda Gentry (Darrel) of Duenweg, Missouri; five grandchildren, Taylor Schooling (Heather), Maddie de Guzman (Charles), Logan Lakin, Cole Wilson, and Derrick Wagner; one great-grandson, Cedar Schooling; one brother, David Wagner; and many

other family members and friends.

Those who preceded Neil in death include his parents, Frederick and Bernice Wagner; his beloved wife, LouAnn Wagner; his son, Jeff Wagner; his brother, Martin Wagner; and his sister, Dorothy Witt.

The family will receive friends at Lakin Funeral Home in Pierce City, MO on Sunday, April 12, 2026, from 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM. Rosary service will begin at 4:00 PM.

Funeral Mass will be at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Sarcoxie, MO on Monday, April 13, 2026, beginning at 10:00 AM with Father Joseph Weidenbenner officiating. Burial, with full Military Honors, will follow at St. Agnes Catholic Cemetery in Sarcoxie, MO.

Memorials may be made to the Jeff Wagner Memorial Golf Tournament in care of the funeral home. Arrangements are under the personal care and direction of Lakin Funeral Home in Pierce City, MO.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

Sarcoxie, MO 64862

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 12. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Lakin Funeral Home
501 N Elm St.
Pierce City, MO 65723
(417) 476-2626
lakinfuneral@suddenlink.net

Rosary Service

APR 12. 4:00 PM (CT)

Lakin Funeral Home
501 N Elm St.
Pierce City, MO 65723
(417) 476-2626
lakinfuneral@suddenlink.net

Funeral Mass

APR 13. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Agnes Catholic Church
26952 Cherry Rd.
Sarcoxie, MO 64862
(417) 476-2827

Tribute Wall

HT

“I met Neil three years ago through Roger, who he always considered one of his own. They worked together at Marlan’s Dairy Farm in Wentworth, and Neil’s humor was a bright spot every day—always ready with a joke. He was sharp and incredibly knowledgeable, my go-to whenever I had a problem with equipment or crops. His passing was sudden and heartbreaking, and the pain of losing him is still so fresh. He adored his daughters with all his heart. And though he’s gone, his humor, his wisdom, and the impact he had on everyone who knew him will never be forgotten.”

Heather Thomas - April 13 at 09:26 AM

HT

“I met Neil about three years ago through Roger, who he always spoke of like one of his own. From the very beginning, Neil made an impression—you could count on him for a good joke or something funny to lighten the moment.

He was an incredibly smart and knowledgeable man. Whenever I had trouble with farm equipment or needed advice on crops, he was the first person I’d turn to. He never hesitated to share what he knew, and that’s something that will live on through everyone he helped.

More than anything, Neil loved his daughters dearly. They were his world, and he spoke of them with so much pride.

Neil will be truly missed. The circumstances surrounding his passing are heartbreaking, and while it’s hard to understand, we hold on to the hope that justice will be served.

My deepest condolences go out to his family and loved ones. Neil will never be forgotten—because the knowledge, kindness, and laughter he shared will continue to carry on in all of us.

We love you, Neil.

Heather Thomas - April 13 at 04:12 AM

DP

“Neil was such a very nice man. He and I Spoke quite a bit on my walks with my dogs. He would always pet them and showed how much he loved animals. He will be missed around Commercial street Apartments! RIP Neil You are at God’s house!! Now in peace!

Debra Plesluska - April 10 at 08:17 PM

DP

“ Neil was a wonderful man. I remember many of our talks we had outside while I was walking my dogs! He would pet them and you could see his love for animals. RIP Neil, you are free now.

Debra Plesluska - April 10 at 06:18 PM

JK

“ Neil is my 2nd cousin. He was 3 months older than me. I went to PCHS and we played basketball against each other we competed ferociously. I saw him few years at breakfast in PC and had a nice visit remembering those HS games. Jim Kutz.

Jim Kutz - April 08 at 08:06 PM

BB

“ So sorry for your loss! Love ya! Keith, Becky & Kylee Bond

Becky Bond - April 08 at 04:31 PM