



## Richard "Dick" Raymond Kutz

June 25, 1945 - July 22, 2025

Richard (Dick) Raymond Kutz, 80, passed away on July 22, 2025, at his home in Joplin, MO. Mr. Kutz was born June 25, 1945, to Ben and Freda Kutz of Sarcoxie, the fourth of six sons. His family moved to Pierce City, MO in May 1950. He attended St. Mary's grade school and Pierce City High School, graduating in 1963. During his high school years, the town was painted with Dick's artwork, whether it be storefront window signage, billboards along the highway entering town, or many pickups with his painted lettering. He also helped his dad at the Kutz Standard Service station on West Commercial and delivered both the Joplin Globe and Monett Times newspapers. He earned letters in football, basketball and track at PCHS and was captain of the football team in his senior year. He followed in the footsteps of his brother Ben who was captain the prior year. It is believed to be the first time brothers were captains in consecutive years. Mr. Kutz graduated from Southwest Missouri State in 1968 and began a five-decade career teaching art in the Mount Vernon, Pierce City and Diamond school districts. Several of his students followed in his footsteps and became art teachers in southwest Missouri. One of his greatest joys was seeing so many of his art students win awards in district competitions. He designed and painted the logo Eagle in the Pierce City gym and the logo Bear in the Sarcoxie gym. While at PCHS, Coach Kutz also served as Athletic Director, Head Football Coach and Track Coach. Many of his athletes went on to compete at the Missouri state track meet in Jefferson City each year. After retiring from teaching, Mr. Kutz served on the

Pierce City school board for two terms.

Mr. Kutz married Karen Helga Lauritson Brown on December 12, 1980. She survives. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Don and Ken; infant sister, Mary Ann; and sisters-in-law, Dee Kutz and Betty Kutz. Other survivors include: sons, Rick Kutz of Ardmore, OK and Fred Kutz of Springdale, AR; stepsons, Doug Brown of Fishers, IN and Jeff (Donna) Brown of Alton, MO; brothers, Ben (Yvonne) of Columbia, MO, Jim (Ann) of Richmond, VA, and Tom (Karla) of St. Louis, MO; sister-in-law, Linda Kutz of Brooklyn Park, MN; grandchildren, Josie Kutz, Jenna (Holt) Easter, Jack Kutz, Jordan (Logan) Kutz, Chelsea (Alex) McCoy, Boni Brown, Catherine Brown, and Allie Brown; and great grandchild, Porter Gibson.

A graveside service will be at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery on Saturday, August 16, 2025, at 10:30 AM with Father Matt Rehrauer officiating. Memorials may be made, in Dick's memory, to Pierce City School Art Department. Arrangements under the personal care and direction of Lakin Funeral Home.

## Cemetery Details

### **St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery**

Pierce City, MO 65723

## Previous Events

### **Graveside Service**

AUG **16**. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery  
Pierce City, MO 65723

# Tribute Wall

MR

“ Mr. Kutz made such an impact on my life in High School. Art class was 6th hour and Photography was 7th hour. He assigned me the Ad section for the yearbook. At first I didn't understand why he didn't give more of the yearbook to design. It wasn't until later I understood. Art is a passion for me and Mr. Kutz knew that. I had a different style of art. He knew Picasso was my favorite. Those of us that had Photography class right after Art had to put our Art project away and work on Photography, mainly the yearbook. He never made me, b/c he knew where my heart was. Some would say: "why does she get to keep working on her Art?" Mr. Kutz's response, don't worry about her. And that's when I realized why he gave me the Ad section in the yearbook. He knew where my focus and heart was. Mr. Kutz inspired me so much. Encouraged me in ways I didn't think were possible. He believed in me and showed me anything is possible and I was capable. This is the piece of art he asked for before I graduated. He said he wanted to frame it and hang it up at home. I worked on it for a long time I u fortunately couldn't part with it. He smiled great big, chuckled and said he understood. He was such a kind spirited person. I pray for God to grant Karen and the family peace and healing. My prayers are with you all. May the Perpetual Light Shine Upon Mr. Kutz. God Bless.



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**Michele Riddle** - August 01, 2025 at 12:35 AM



“ 2 files added to the album ART



Ronald Bowen - July 29, 2025 at 12:09 PM

TR

“ Rick and Fred, I remember your Dad as a good neighbor, friend and great teacher. He always had the respect from the kids in school. So sorry to hear of his passing.  
Tressie (Thornhill) Roethemeier

Tressie Roethemeier - July 28, 2025 at 05:31 PM

DB

“ Daniel Baker purchased the "God Has You" 21" Sonnet Chime for the family of Richard "Dick" Raymond Kutz.



Daniel Baker - July 27, 2025 at 04:15 PM

DB

“ Daniel Baker planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard "Dick" Raymond Kutz.

Daniel Baker - July 27, 2025 at 04:15 PM

AH

“ I’m saddened to hear of the passing of Mr. Kurtz. He was one of my favorite teachers and coaches. His art class was a place of creativity and encouragement, I even bought my first car from him, a memory that still makes me smile. He truly made a lasting impact on my life, and I’m grateful to have known him.

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**Ashley Holland** - July 26, 2025 at 09:01 PM

MW

“ This tribute is from Nathalie Le Marrec the PCHS foreign exchange student from France during the 1988-89 school year:

*I'm very sorry to hear about Mr Kurtz's passing. As I could choose my classes when I went to PCHS, I spent a lot of time doing art in his room. He's the one who asked me to paint a big picture on the art class wall. I wasn't sure I could do it, I had never tackled such a project, but he gave me the confidence to have a go. He said I could do anything I wanted so I chose to paint the black and white Marilyn. He also encouraged me to take part in the end of year state art show. I really enjoyed preparing drawings and paintings for it and would seek his guidance. When school finished, he asked me if I was going to carry on with art. I said yes and applied to my local art school (les Beaux Arts) upon my return to France and got in. I only did one year, as I decided to study English in the end but art was such a big part of my life then and going to art school was a great experience. I loved my year at Pierce City, and still have many fond memories, it was such an adventure, but not always understanding what's going on around you because you don't master the language and come from a different culture can be very frustrating and even overwhelming. I loved being in Mr Kurtz's classroom because I could express myself in a different way and he was always there to support me. Please pass on my sincere condolences to his family. I'm sure he has helped and inspired countless pupils over his career as a teacher, a proud legacy.*

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**Mendi Wormington** - July 26, 2025 at 07:41 PM

MW

“ Candid from Mr. Kutz’s art classroom with underclassmen (PCHS 1988-89)



Mendi Wormington - July 26, 2025 at 12:25 PM

MW

“ Mr. Kutz with Jason Chapman and Nathalie Le Marrec (our foreign exchange student that year PCHS 1988-89).



Mendi Wormington - July 26, 2025 at 12:23 PM

MW

“ PCHS 1989 class members left to right: Spencer Petersen, Jenny Lesue Rodriguez, Grant Raley, Michele Winton-Riddle, Stephanie Chipman, Nathalie Le Marrec, Mr. Kutz and Daniel Baker.



Mendi Wormington - July 26, 2025 at 12:21 PM

MW

“ *From the Pierce City High School Class of 1989 - 30th Class Reunion (left to right): Mrs. Reed, Mr. Fields, Mr. Abeln, Mr. Kutz and Mr. Lanning (2019)*



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**Mendi Wormington** - July 26, 2025 at 12:20 PM

“ In 1988, longtime business teacher Mrs. Jean Evans retired, and with that, the yearbook shifted to the Art Department under Mr. Kutz. He brought fresh energy, new ideas, and opened the door for a different kind of creativity.

To be on the yearbook staff, you were supposed to have taken Art I. I hadn't—but I really wanted to be part of the yearbook. With encouragement from some friends, I asked Mr. Kutz if he'd consider making an exception. To my surprise (and relief), he said yes.

That year—1989—we completely reimagined the PCHS Eagle Image yearbook with bold new layouts and creative headings. Our theme was *An Electrifying Year*, and it really was.

Mr. Kutz even arranged for Empire Electric to bring a utility truck so we could photograph the senior couples on it. That same day, our class lined up and formed a giant “89” on the ground for an aerial shot that he took from the bucket. Looking back, I doubt something like that would be allowed today—but it was such a memorable part of our senior year.

He gave us the freedom to try new things, to take ownership of the product, and to be proud of what we created. He always liked to share that the 1989 annual was the only yearbook with no leftover copies - when he typically had some extras.

Mr. Kutz believed in his students. He gave us a chance, even when we didn't quite fit the mold. He encouraged us, challenged us, and treated us like we had something real to offer.

Most recently, he attended our 30th class reunion (2019) and spent the afternoon snapping photos of classmates. It meant a lot that he made the time to attend and reconnect with us.

I'll always be glad he took a chance on me! His kindness and encouragement made a difference for many students.

*Sending heartfelt love and sympathy to Karen and his family. I hope you find comfort in knowing how many lives he touched along the way.*

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**Mendi Wormington** - July 26, 2025 at 12:19 PM

LH

“ *So sorry for your loss. I had many visits with Dick through the years, a great guy.* ”

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**Lowell Haddock** - July 25, 2025 at 11:22 PM

JC

*Man, I just received this from Jim today, and I am in shock I guess. Dick was a good friend and we had been communicating on Facebook now for years. I now know why I have not heard from him in some time, and I hate this. I really feel terrible I knew nothing. I admired Dick for his creativity and athletic abilities. I am going to miss trading thoughts about artworks with him. I can only say that Dick shared so much with his family, friends, and his many students that I am sure are hurting, or will soon enough. God Bless and open His doors for Dick Kutz. He deserves no less!*

*I am sad for all his brothers, and surviving family. He will remain in my thoughts for quite some time!*

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**Joseph Dale Cochran** - July 27, 2025 at 05:43 PM

JM

“ *Worked with Mr. Kutz at Pierce City High School. He was a joy to be around. Very funny guy. Prayers for family.* ”

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**Julie Morrison** - July 25, 2025 at 04:55 PM