



## Russell Brichacek

September 15, 1953 - April 20, 2019

Russell Brichacek passed away Saturday, April 20, 2019.

Russ was born September 15, 1953, to Glenn and Pauline Brichacek in Lyons, Kansas. He graduated from McPherson High School in 1971 and earned a degree in geology from Kansas State University. He then went to work in the oilfields in Oklahoma, where he met and married his wife, Sue "Tudi". They then moved to Topeka where Russ began his career with KDHE, in the Air Quality Division. He retired in 2015 as Bureau Chief.

Russ enjoyed spending time with his family, playing tent and hide and seek with the grandkids, gardening, yard work and fireworks. He was quite the handy man. Russ was dearly loved and will be greatly missed.

Russ is survived by his wife, Tudi, of 31 years, Topeka; daughter, Jennifer Fizer-Neal (Clay Neal) Topeka; son, Jeff Fizer (Chasity) Meriden, Kansas; five loving grandchildren who were his whole world, Clayton, Mayci, Maddie, Mollie and Kinley; and great-granddaughter, Emerie Fizer; one brother, Gary Brichacek (Miriam) Heston, Kansas; nephews, Bill Brichacek, Heston, Kansas, Joseph Brichacek, New York; and niece, Andrea Schaaf (Nathaniel) Germany. Russ was preceded in death by his parents and uncle and aunt, Raymond "Gus" and Wanda Brichacek.

Visitation will be Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS. Cremation will follow. Inurnment will be later in Lucas Cemetery, Lucas, Kansas.

In lieu of flowers, we would like donations to Helping Hands Humane Society, the House at Midland Care or Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, sent in care of the funeral home.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road  
Topeka, KS 66614  
(785) 272-7888  
[info@kevinbrennanfamily.com](mailto:info@kevinbrennanfamily.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Russell Brichacek*



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**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - April 25, 2019 at 03:34 PM



“ *Russell Brichacek*

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January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Many thoughts for Tudi, Jennifer, Jeff and families!*

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**Melissa Aubert** - April 29, 2019 at 10:49 AM

CE

“ Dear Tudi and Family,

*My thoughts and prayers go out to you as you mourn the loss of Russ.*

*Russ was my boss during my brief tenure in the asbestos program at KDHE. I really loved his soft-spoken style and his great sense of humor! I also worked with him on other projects as we both moved into different positions through various reorganizations at KDHE.*

*I'd like to share one memory I have of Russ. The morning of my 40th birthday (Russ didn't know it was my birthday) he and I hopped in our state van, jumped on the turnpike and drove to Wichita to inspect the Century Center project. Russ and I immediately became engrossed in conversation. Close to the Admire exit, Russ noticed problems with the van and it just died. He realized it was out of gas. I had AAA, called them and waited for them to bring us gas.*

*Consequently, the delay put us behind schedule and we got back to Topeka late. Russ decided to just drop me off at my house so I wouldn't be any later than I already was. When we pulled down my street he noticed all the balloons and banner my family put up for my birthday. He felt bad about that. The next day at work he brought in a dozen donuts to celebrate my birthday.*

*He was just a great guy!*

*Claudia Elkins*

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**Claudia Elkins** - April 28, 2019 at 01:48 PM

CH

*I agree whole-heartedly with Claudia's comments. I was secretary to the director of environment and I knew that Russ was always a person that would give me sound guidance. Always pleasant. As I watch the video, the calm expression and his eyes from the young pictures to adulthood pictures certainly reflect his character. May grace be with you during this very difficult time.*

Cathy Houghton - April 28, 2019 at 03:38 PM

CH

*RUSS was always*

Cathy Houghton - April 28, 2019 at 03:39 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Russell Brichacek.*



April 24, 2019 at 12:32 PM

KN

“ *Thinking of you all during this difficult time. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. My sincere, deepest condolences!!!*

Kimberly Neel-Long - April 23, 2019 at 11:09 PM

JH

“ *I loved Russ's chili and his chocolate cake, heavy on the frosting. Even though my birthday was in June, and not the appropriate temperature for chili according to Tudi, Russ made a big pot for me. I loved rubbing in Jen's face that my birthday came first, so I got the first cake. He was kind and he loved his family. And his cats. He is missed.*

jennifer higgins - April 22, 2019 at 11:42 PM

JA

“ Tudi, I am so very sorry about Russ. I would not be the person that I am today without the guidance and mentoring that Russ gave me at KDHE; from taking a chance on hiring a green kid straight out of college, all the way to when he confided in me at a conference in Chicago that he was planning on retiring and wanted me to take his place. I still remember how on my first day of work, he took me to lunch at Quiznos to welcome me and at the end of that first day told me that that was one day down, only a million more to go! I will never forget the many opportunities he gave me and will always remember him.



Javier Ahumada - April 22, 2019 at 03:18 PM

JF

What a wonderful memory and a great read! We can't thank you enough for taking the time to share.

Jennifer Fizer-Neal - April 22, 2019 at 10:54 PM

NF

“ I am so sorry for you're loss.Please let us know if you need any thing! My he rest in peace.

Naomi Franklin - April 22, 2019 at 10:07 AM

JF

Thank you! We so appreciate your words and support.

Jennifer Fizer-Neal - April 22, 2019 at 10:57 PM

NF

“ Naomi Franklin lit a candle in memory of Russell Brichacek



Naomi Franklin - April 22, 2019 at 09:56 AM

DD

“ I can't imagine what you must be feeling right now Tudi, but I want you to know that we are just a phone call away. My heartfelt condolences. Please know that we are here for you so please don't hesitate to reach out, especially during this difficult time. May he rest in peace.

Debbie Dyche - April 22, 2019 at 09:25 AM

JF

Thank you and I will make sure mom is able to read your words of support.

Jennifer Fizer-Neal - April 22, 2019 at 10:57 PM

FR

“ Dear Tudi,  
John and I were so sorry to hear of Russ's passing. I will always be grateful to you and him for understanding my dilemma and finding a loving home for my kitties. He loved his critters and was a nice and sweet man. It is a terrible loss for you and your family.  
Love,  
Fern and John

fern rosenberg - April 21, 2019 at 05:30 PM

JF

Thank you for such kind words. He is missed greatly!

Jennifer Fizer-Neal - April 22, 2019 at 10:55 PM

AL

*Russ was such a sweet man. He was willing to help me when I needed something fixed. We had very nice conversations and laughed remembering some of the neighborhoods adventures. He will be missed. All my love to the family*

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**Andria Liles** - April 23, 2019 at 07:49 AM