



Russell "Russ" Estes, Jr.

February 16, 1947 - September 10, 2025

Russell Lee Estes, Jr., 78, passed away on Wednesday, September 10, 2025, in Topeka, Kansas. Russ was born on February 16, 1947, to Russell Lee Estes, Sr. and Clara Mary Kamen Estes in Tecumseh, Nebraska.

Russ graduated from Circleville High School in 1965. Not long after high school, he joined the Army National Guard and then was drafted into the Vietnam War. For his service in Vietnam, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal with 2 Bronze Service Stars, accomplishments for which he was deeply honored his entire life. He was a proud soldier for the remainder of his life, doing anything and everything to honor veterans. Russ was a two-time recipient of the purple heart, and he volunteered as a member of the honor guard at military funerals. He worked at the Veterans' Administration as an Administrative Assistant. He was the Commander of the VFW Philip Billard Post #1650 from 2004-2005. He also carried the Olympic torch as it came through Topeka before the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia.

Russ welcomed his son, Shane, into this world on April 16, 1972. He married Doris Ann Flax on June 22, 1983, to this union, a blended family was created including Andrea and Chris.

Russ enjoyed hunting, fishing, cowboy shooting, gambling at the casinos, being around his family, any conversation about ammo or guns, and loving on his dogs. He may not have been the best dog trainer, but he was an avid dog lover.

Russ is survived by his wife, Doris; his son, Shane; three grandchildren, Colby Estes, Bailey Evans (Preston), Wyatt Estes; two great-grandchildren, Lincoln Estes and Paisley Evans; stepchildren, Andrea Hillebert (Shawn), Chris Limbird (Bonnie); five step-grandchildren; and two sisters, Rosie Oberst and Linda Estes.

Russ was preceded in death by his parents, Russell and Clara Estes, and his brother, Ronnie Estes.

Graveside service with military honors will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, September 19, 2025, at Mount Calvary Cemetery, 801 SW Westchester Road, Topeka KS 66606.

Memorial contributions may be made to Mater Dei Catholic School or VFW Phillip Billard Post 1650, sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP **19**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Mount Calvary Cemetery
801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Tribute Wall

DC

“ So sorry to hear about Russ. Met Russ "Kant Kount" years ago when I started doing Cowboy Action Shooting. Always enjoyed seeing him.

Dale Crawshaw - September 19, 2025 at 09:47 PM

AH

“ In May, at the Circleville High School Reunion, I saw Russ and gave him a hug. I had not seen him in years. He was three years older, but I remembered what a great guy he was. After reading his obituary, I was not surprised of his great service to our country and the love he showed to all. My deepest sympathy to his family and friends. I know he will be greatly missed. Anita Miller Hempy

Anita Hempy - September 18, 2025 at 08:35 AM

K(

“ He was a fine cowboy to shoot with. Perhaps the club will have a rifle salute for him at the next match.
Ole N. Decrepit

Kevin Coulson aka Ole N. Decrepit (Cowbo - September 17, 2025 at 10:59 AM

RW

“ remember many a fine day with Russ at SASS events. My condolences to the family. JD Cook aka Roger Wake

roger wake - September 17, 2025 at 10:57 AM

SM

“ My condolences to the family. I went to school in Circleville with him and his siblings. Sandra Plumb Majors

Sandra Majors - September 16, 2025 at 09:39 PM

BL

“ *Doris, Andrea and family. Our sincere condolences on your loss. We have you all in our thoughts and prayers. Love you all.*

Brian, Jodi, Mason Loy and the boys

Brian Loy - September 16, 2025 at 01:34 PM

SP

“ *So sorry to hear about the passing of Russ. He would come into Specks on Saturday's when I would bartend. He was always such a happy person and always had a story to tell. He was one of my favorites. My husband and I will sure miss seeing him. Sending prayers your way. Steve & Janice Purney*

Steve & Janice Purney - September 16, 2025 at 11:50 AM

BT

“ *We were heartbroken to hear of Russ passing. For so many of us at Blind Tiger he wasn't just a familiar face he was part of our daily rhythm. Rain or shine, Russ came in for his mug of beer every day, always with a warm smile, a kind word, and a story to share. The bar feels quieter without him.*

Our deepest condolences to Russ's family and loved ones. We raise a glass in his honor. He will be deeply missed and always remembered.

— All of us at Blind Tiger Brewery

Blind Tiger - September 15, 2025 at 03:06 PM



*Thank you for the kind words. He will miss all of you as well.
Sincerely,
Shane Estes*

Shane Estes - September 16, 2025 at 08:17 AM

MS

*“ Russ will be greatly missed. Through our interaction at the gun club and enjoying liquid refreshment together at a local watering hole, I had gotten to know Russ, and will miss his sense of humor, views on life, and his love of hunting and shooting. Rest easy my friend.
Myron*

Myron Stucky - September 15, 2025 at 01:11 PM

BL

Was just talking to Russ at a local watering hole the week before he passed. We were talking about how luck we were to be alive and in general good health. We will miss him. He was one of a kind

Bill Loder - September 15, 2025 at 01:51 PM

DS

*Doris, Andrea & Chris...Prayers for your family in the loss of Russ.
Diana Sutphen & family*

Diana R Sutphen - September 17, 2025 at 03:05 PM

LS

*I enjoyed working with Russ at the VAMC. My Father inlaw thought he was one of the best people at the VA when he was a patient at the VAMC. Sorry for your loss.
Lyle Shoemaker*

Lyle Shoemaker - September 18, 2025 at 08:01 PM

DE

*Thank you all for the kind words, he certainly enjoyed his life. His backyard friends, (birds and squirrels), are missing him also. Sincerely,
Doris and family.*

Doris Estes - September 29, 2025 at 05:38 AM