



Richard Francis Wassinger

January 8, 1945 - October 29, 2024

RICHARD FRANCIS WASSINGER

1945 – 2024

Richard Francis Wassinger, age 79 of Plattsmouth, NE was born on January 8, 1945 in Grand Island, Nebraska to Benedict Phillip Wassinger and Lola Elizabeth (Life) Wassinger. He passed away on October 29, 2024 in The Villages, Florida.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and a respected leader in his community. His life reflected unwavering commitments to family, faith, and service, leaving a legacy of love, dedication, and kindness that will be felt for generations.

A graduate of Grand Island Central Catholic, Richard was a talented athlete and good student. He went on to serve his country in Vietnam. Upon return home, Richard attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where he met Ruth Kristine Wassinger, his beloved wife of over 40 years.

Together, they built a family grounded in compassion and faith, raising two children, Kristine and Andrew. Their partnership was marked by loyalty and joy, sustaining their family through life's trials and celebrations until Ruth's passing.

In November of last year, Richard married Mary Siegel, his high school sweetheart, bringing renewed companionship and happiness into his life. Their union made his last year one of his most cherished, filled with the warmth of shared memories and new experiences.

A proud husband, father and grandfather, Richard was deeply committed to his family. His dedication was evident in his unwavering support for his grandchildren, attending every game, play, and performance with boundless enthusiasm, creating treasured memories and exemplifying steadfast love. Initially, Richard was a teacher in the Plattsmouth school system with his wife Ruth. Later in his professional life, Richard served as the County Treasurer for Cass County, Nebraska, where he became a trusted and respected figure in public service. His involvement with the Nebraska Association of County Officials underscored his commitment to advancing county financial standards and supporting his peers statewide. Richard's contributions to local governance were further recognized through a governor-appointed position under Governor Dave Heineman, a role that allowed him to shape policies benefitting communities across Nebraska.

Richard's devotion extended to his church community, where he served faithfully on the finance committee and in other roles. His dedication to stewardship and faith helped ensure the church's stability and growth, supporting a space of spiritual refuge for many. Richard's commitment to service—both in his professional life and through his church—demonstrated his belief in uplifting and caring for others.

He is survived by his sister: Diana Buhrman and her husband Larry, sister-in-law: Arlene Wassinger, wife: Mary, his children: Kristine Placek and her husband Keith and Andrew Wassinger and his wife Erica. His legacy is most visible in his vibrant grandchildren Evelyn, Joseph, Sylvia, Isaiah, Carroll, and Snyder. Richards's values will live on through the lives of his family and the communities he touched with his kind heart, deep faith, and dedication to service.

He is preceded in death by his parents: Benedict and Lola Wassinger, his two brothers: Michael Wassinger and Benedict Wassinger, and his wife: Ruth Wassinger.

There will be Visitations from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M., with a Rosary at 7:00 P.M. on Thursday, November 7, 2024 at Church of the Holy Spirit in Plattsmouth.

A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 A.M., on Friday, November 8, 2024 at Church of the Holy Spirit with Father Sean Timmerman officiating, Leo Sand as acolyte, Joseph Placek as lector, Terry Little as vocalist, and Laurie Hajek-Jones as organist.

The Pallbearers will be Jeff Buhrman, John Gorman, Mike Petersen, Matthew Rinkenberger, Jeffrey Smith, and Steve Wassinger.

His Final Resting Place will be at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Plattsmouth.

There will be a luncheon following the burial at St. Johns the Baptist School Gymnasium.

The family requests that any gifts are made to St. Johns the Baptist School. Please no flowers.

Services are entrusted to Roby Funeral Home, 346 Ave. A, Plattsmouth, NE 68048. (402) 296-3123 robymfuneralhome.com.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Church of The Holy Spirit
520 South 18th St
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

Rosary

NOV 7. 7:00 PM (CT)

Church of The Holy Spirit
520 South 18th St
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

Funeral Mass

NOV 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

Church of The Holy Spirit
520 South 18th St
Plattsmouth, NE 68048

There will be a luncheon following the burial at St. Johns the Baptist School Gymnasium

Tribute Wall

KP

“ Mr Wassinger, is who he would always be to me. As my teacher, he was one of few that I looked up to. He had a sense of humor and a little sheepish grin. We had a couple of rowdy boys that he had to keep in line, even though at times they were amusing. After one or both of the boys left the room, the grin would peek through.

He did have a fun sense of humor. So, learning didn't seem like the bore it could've been. He didn't overlook any student, he made sure we all understood what he was teaching. He had a way of making each of us feel important.

Decades afterwards, he still knew his students by name. Whenever I would go into the courthouse, I felt as special as he made us feel in class. He was a special soul.



Kelly Powers - November 18, 2025 at 06:19 PM

MT

“ Mena And Bill Toman lit a candle in memory of Richard Francis Wassinger



Mena and Bill Toman - November 07, 2024 at 10:14 PM

MT

Thank you for being our friend for so many years. A lifetime! We shall love you always. Deepest sympathy, prayers, love, and friendship. And deep respect. 🤝🤝🤝🤝🤝🤝🤝🤝🤝 We shall truly miss your smile and company. We will find comfort in the smiles of your children Kristine and Andrew, their children, and the rest of your family. God bless you our dear friend. 🤝🤝🤝

Mena and Bill Toman - November 07, 2024 at 10:28 PM

BM

My parents lived next to the Wassinger family 70+ years ago. I knew Dick (and Ben), and they were part of a great family. Even though it has been years since I have been in contact with Dick---I have great memories. My deepest sympathies to all of you, and may the memories of Dick help sustain you during your grief.

Bruce McKeag - November 12, 2024 at 11:13 AM

SP

“ *Shelly And Mark Pelzer lit a candle in memory of Richard Francis Wassinger*



Shelly and Mark Pelzer - November 07, 2024 at 09:22 PM

SP

Deepest love, sympathy, and prayers to Kristine and family, Andrew and family...and to the whole family. Mr. Wassinger was an awesome friend to all of us! Mama, Daddy especially. His smile and spirit was contagious. A gentle man and spirit we shall never ever forget. We were so blessed to know Him. God bless Mr. Wassinger. We love you!!!



Shelly and Mark Pelzer - November 07, 2024 at 09:54 PM

DB

“ *Darrin and Melissa Buhrman purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Richard Francis Wassinger.*



Darrin and Melissa Buhrman - November 06, 2024 at 08:48 PM

HN

“ Heather N. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Richard Francis Wassinger.

Heather N. - November 06, 2024 at 04:43 PM



“ Calm & Comfort Bouquet for Sympathy - Florist C hoice was purchased for the family of Richard Francis Wassinger.



November 05, 2024 at 09:02 AM

TS

“ Uncle Dick spoke softly with a unique wit, charm, and kindness.

When he came to visit us in Minnesota and was holding my baby, I remember him saying something about why my little guy was so content with him “because he knows what handsome is” (something like that, I don’t want to misquote his joke..) ...he said this in a way that was both adorable and jovial, with a smirk on his face acknowledging his joke!

There’s a saying that we won’t always remember what words people said, but how they made us feel. When you were in Uncle Dick’s presence, you felt welcome, safe, and you felt loved.

Tamara Sadlo - November 02, 2024 at 11:04 AM

NA

“ *Nancy Austin lit a candle in memory of
Richard Francis Wassinger*



Nancy Austin - November 02, 2024 at 10:00 AM