

**MEMORIAL SERVICE
Of
ROGER D. FRIESEN**

Bethesda Mennonite Church
Henderson, Nebraska
Wednesday, April 29, 2026

MEMORIAL SERVICE 2:00 p.m.

Prelude	Sandra Quiring, Pianist
Call to Worship & Prayer	Pastor Chelsea Vaught
Celebration of Life	Abbie Pinnegar
“How Great Thou Art”	Mixed Octet <i>Brent & Becky Buller, Kurt & Kathryn Goertzen, Royce & Carol Janzen, Dale & Laura Steingard</i>
Scripture Reading: Psalm 23	Pastor Chelsea Vaught
Message	Pastor Chelsea Vaught
“In the Bulb There is a Flower” Sleeth	Mixed Octet
Invitation to Reception	Pastor Chelsea Vaught
Benediction	Pastor Chelsea Vaught
Postlude	Sandra Quiring, Pianist

COMMITTAL SERVICE
Bethesda Mennonite Church Cemetery

Scripture Reading	Pastor Chelsea Vaught Psalm 121, Psalm 46:1-3, Psalm 34:18, Psalm 91:1-2
“Amazing Grace”	Jay Kroeker
Committal Prayer & Family Blessing	Pastor Chelsea Vaught

Casket Bearers

Tim Peters	Shannon Koop	Corwin Koop
Jesse Koop	Jason Dyck	Chad Buresh
	Keith Zerr	

Honorary Casket Bearer

Corey Peters	Patrick Farran	Joel Farran
John Pinnegar	Hunter Friesen	Harper Friesen

MEMORIALS may be directed to Henderson Heritage Park or the Mennonite Disaster Service Cabinet Shop in Goessel, Kansas.

THE FAMILY IS GRATEFUL for the love and support demonstrated by your presence today and invites you to a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the Committal Service.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Roger Dale Friesen, age 83, of Henderson, NE died Wednesday, April 22, 2026 in Lincoln, NE at Bryan West Hospital. He was born to Herbert O. and Tena (Mierau) Friesen at York General Hospital, in York, NE on November 17, 1942. His family lived on a farm south of Bradshaw, NE until he was five years old, when his father bought a blacksmith shop. At the age of eight he started working in the blacksmith shop sweeping on Saturday mornings, eventually becoming a skilled blacksmith. He enjoyed relating stories of the characters who visited the shop!

Roger was married to Kathleen A. Koop on November 29, 1963 at Bethesda Mennonite Church. His story of their meeting was that he came to Catechism class late one Sunday morning. As he sat down in the front row, he looked up and saw her for the first time! “Who’s the blonde?” he asked his friend. “I’m going to date her!” They had attended there since early preschool Sunday School and Youth groups, but he just wasn’t paying attention! He was baptized and became a member of Bethesda Mennonite Church on May 17, 1959. After they married, they lived in Newton and Eldorado, KS, Chickasha, OK, York, NE and eventually Henderson, where they could raise their sons close to their grandparents.

He lived for sports, especially basketball in high school. His favorite spot was the “three-point-shot”. He always regretted that the three-point shot was not part of basketball in his youth. Everyone remembered his amazing last second shot against Friend to win the basketball game. He also played Legion baseball in York during the summers. After graduating from Henderson High School in 1960, he attended Bethel College in North Newton, KS, graduating with a double major in Business and Economics in

1965. During his college days he worked at Century House Clothing in Newton, where he learned many business skills.

After six years with Sears in their Management program, he went back to school to become a stockbroker. He worked for several regional firms becoming a manager. In 1995, he started the firm First Mid-America in Grand Island, NE with his business partner. Those were exciting times with stories of clients and the young men and women who worked for him! They were like family to him. It was important to him that they always serve the client's needs and not focus on commission. He was proud that with 50 years in business they never had a bad audit! Every single one came back "clean" meaning perfect.

Roger had a lifelong passion for collecting, starting with stamps, coins and baseball cards as a youngster, which became a lifelong passion. He also enjoyed the hunt for antiques with his wife Kathy and they used many in their home.

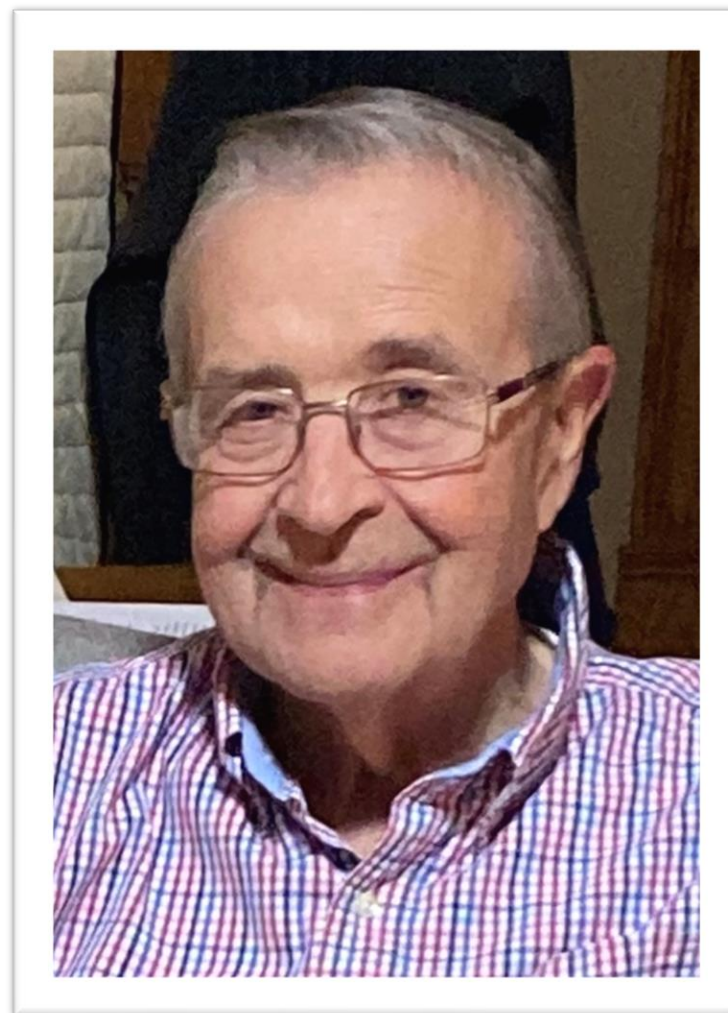
He coached and played Men's Fast Pitch Softball for the Henderson town team as an adult for a number of years. Earning the state championship one summer was a joyous occasion..... what a celebration! He greatly enjoyed fishing and driving out west to hunt deer with Jim Koop and his boys.

He gave back to the community, serving as Jaycee President of the York Chapter. He helped provide opportunities for underprivileged children to attend camp by paying their fees. He coached summer baseball with and for his sons. He enjoyed solving the problems of the city during his term on the City Council of Henderson.

At one time in the late 1970's Roger, his father, H.O. Friesen and brother-in-law, Marvin D. Peters built three houses, his own new home, his in-law's home, and a spec house.

Roger is survived by his wife of 62 years, Kathy Friesen, of Henderson, NE, sons, Shawn Friesen of Chongqing, China where he teaches English and Travis (Dani Klecan) Friesen of Beatrice, NE who own and manage Friesen Landscaping in Lincoln, NE. Best of all, are his precious grandchildren Hunter and Harper, age 8, ... the greatest loves of his life! He was so proud of all their accomplishments and talents! He loved them so very much!

Roger was preceded in death by his parents, parents-in-law, Chris and Mildred Koop, his sister Glendora and Marvin D Peters, and daughter-in-law Joyce (Shockly) Friesen.



In Loving Memory

Roger D. Friesen

November 17, 1942 – April 22, 2026

Bethesda Mennonite Church
Henderson, Nebraska