



## Don Rice

February 28, 1940 - July 9, 2022

Donald Eugene “Don” Rice, 82, a former resident of Howard, Kansas passed away on Saturday, July 9, 2022 at his current home in Derby, Kansas. Don was born on February 28, 1940 to JB and Dorothy (Smith) Rice in Iola, Kansas, the second of four children. He grew up primarily in Iola and later in Wichita where he met and married Ellen Jane Butler in 1956; she was 14 and he, 16.

After Don graduated from high school, he joined the armed forces serving his country in the United States Navy from 1961 until 1965 when he was injured in an explosion, losing partial sight and some mobility. This injury didn’t stop Don. Upon his honorable release from the Navy, he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Education from Friend’s University in Wichita, Kansas. Don taught for several years including at West Elk High School in Howard. He and Ellen also owned the Howard Meat Locker for a time. Ultimately, Don took a job in law enforcement with the Howard Police Department and retired as the Chief of Police after nearly 30 years of service to the community.

After retirement, Don got to spend time with his grandkids and was always such a font of knowledge and unconditional love. He and Ellen worked as a team raising their own family of three daughters that it just seemed such a natural transition from Dad to Grandpa. His selfless nature is something that many will remember, not only within his family unit, but the couple’s tendency

to help complete strangers or truly anyone in need.

Don is survived by:

His three Daughters –

Polly Maher of Derby, Kansas

Peggy Springer of Macksville, Kansas

Patty Rice of Derby, Kansas

Sisters

Shirley (Jim) Jones of Sedgwick, Kansas

Karen Woods of Melvern, Kansas

Grandchildren

Josh (Tasha) Gibson of Howard, Kansas

Jennifer (Derek) MacKay of Leawood, Kansas

Jared (Tamara) Miller of Iowa

David Maher of Wichita, Kansas

Jessy Springer of Macksville, Kansas

Jill (Gary) Drake of Norwich, Kansas

Jacob Springer of Larned, Kansas

Aubri Rice of Derby, Kansas

Carlos Rice of Derby, Kansas

Jordyn Springer of Macksville, Kansas

As well as great grandson Ash Gibson of Japan and eight additional great grandchildren.

Don was preceded in death by

His parents, JB and Dorothy

His wife Ellen

And a brother, Richard Rice.

A memorial service to honor Don's life will be held on Monday, July 25, 2022 at 1:00pm at Countryside Funeral Home in Howard, Kansas.

Memorial contributions have been suggested to Sedgwick County Zoo Education Scholarship Fund and can be mailed to or left with the funeral home.

Online condolences can be left at [www.countrysidefh.com](http://www.countrysidefh.com). Services entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home, 206 E. Washington St. P.O. Box 1233, Howard, KS 67349.

# Cemetery Details

## Cresco Cemetery

US HWY 99 & Rock Rd  
Howard, KS 67349

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

JUL **25**. 1:00 PM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Howard  
206 E. Washington  
P.O. Box 1233  
Howard, KS 67349  
(620) 374-2381

# Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Don Rice.* ”



July 13, 2022 at 11:48 PM



“ *Dan And Stefni Hebb lit a candle in memory of Don Rice* ”



**Dan and Stefni Hebb** - July 13, 2022 at 06:16 PM



“ *Randy Lights lit a candle in memory of Don Rice* ”



**Randy Lights** - July 13, 2022 at 10:07 AM



“ *Pastor Robin And Kathy Haines lit a candle in memory of Don Rice* ”



**Pastor Robin and Kathy Haines** - July 13, 2022 at 07:53 AM

CC

“ *Chip&Nancy Crum lit a candle in memory of Don Rice*



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**Chip&Nancy Crum** - July 12, 2022 at 06:09 PM

TF

“ *The Marsh Family lit a candle in memory of Don Rice*



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**The Marsh Family** - July 12, 2022 at 05:42 PM

CR

“ *Carlos Rice lit a candle in memory of Don Rice*



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**Carlos rice** - July 12, 2022 at 03:09 PM