



## Richard Wagler

November 15, 1950 - August 3, 2025

Richard Michael Wagler dedicated his life to serving others during their most difficult times as funeral director of Wagler Funeral Home. Beloved husband, father and grandfather, Richard passed away peacefully on August 3, 2025 in Des Moines, Iowa at the age of 74.

He was born on November 15, 1950 to Scott and Ruth Stinson Wagler in Bloomfield, Iowa. He was raised around his families' funeral home, ambulance service, and furniture store – leaving a lasting impression on his sense of dedication to his family, community, and funeral service. He graduated from Davis County High School in 1969. On March 9, 1974, he married childhood sweetheart, Lisa Dunsmoor, on the Simpson College Campus in Indianola, Iowa. The couple enjoyed 51 wonderful years together and raised three children; Adam, Michael, and Ellie.

After attending Iowa Wesleyan College and teaching science for almost five years in St. Louis, Richard returned to Bloomfield to assist in the family business in September of 1979. He earned a degree at the Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science in Texas. Richard owned and operated the Wagler Funeral Home for 35 years before retiring in 2014. He was a nationwide leader in his field, serving as President of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association and regional lead of the Disaster Mortuary Operations Response Team where he managed teams of morticians in emergency situations. In 1989, he helped

with the aftermath of United Airlines Flight 232 which crashed in Sioux City, Iowa. In the early 2000s, he served on a design team to create the Department of Homeland Security.

Richard was active in many organizations in Davis County including the Optimist Club, Lion's Club, D.C. Historical Society, and the Masonic Lodge. He was also a long-time member of the Bloomfield United Methodist Church and the Bloomfield Country Club. He spent many years running chains for the Davis County Mustangs' football games. His contribution to the community was acknowledged when he was entered into the Community Hall of Fame. After retiring, Richard could be found on the golf course with his friends and was a dedicated fan of the Iowa Hawkeyes. He was typically seen wearing University of Iowa t-shirts as he "hung up his funeral suit."

He is survived by his loving wife, Lisa Wagler; three children, Adam Wagler of Lincoln, Nebraska, Michael (Claire Richmond) Wagler, Ellie (Winston) Stewart-Wagler both of Des Moines; four grandchildren, Carter Wagler-Stewart, Aria Stewart, Finnean Wagler, Hutchinson Wagler; sister, Marsha Jarrett of Des Moines; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Gene Wagler and Scott Wagler Jr.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, August 11, 2025 at the Wagler Funeral Home in Bloomfield with Rev. Ellis Andrews officiating. Burial will be at the IOOF Cemetery in Bloomfield. Visitation will begin at noon on Sunday with the family present to greet friends from 1-3:00 p.m. at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, a memorial has been established to the Davis County Dollars for Scholars. Richard's charisma, goofy jokes, and unwavering dedication to his family, profession, and community will be deeply missed by all who knew him.



# Cemetery Details

## IOOF Cemetery

620 North Madison Street  
Bloomfield, IA 52537

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 10. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Wagler Funeral Home  
304 West Jefferson Street  
Bloomfield, IA 52537  
(641) 664-3421  
<https://www.waglerfuneralhome.com/>

## Visitation with Family Present

AUG 10. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Wagler Funeral Home  
304 West Jefferson Street  
Bloomfield, IA 52537  
(641) 664-3421  
<https://www.waglerfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Service

---

AUG 11. 11:00 AM (CT)

Wagler Funeral Home  
304 West Jefferson Street  
Bloomfield, IA 52537  
(641) 664-3421  
<https://www.waglerfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DB

“ Dean BAILEY lit a candle in memory of Richard Wagler



Dean BAILEY - August 10, 2025 at 03:16 PM

JK

“ Rich was my old friend. We grew up together. We played race cars in the caskets, learned how to punt a football, Punt Pass and Kick, which he beat me, sports in high school, getting stuck on a muddy lane, and then graduated high school. We were both driven. Rich was driven to serve the people. He found his calling. He provided dignity and caring to the families that needed it the most. He was my old friend and I will miss him, Greatly!  
And when our work is done  
Our course on earth is run  
May it be said, "Well done"  
"Be thou at peace"

Jack Kincart - August 09, 2025 at 08:02 PM

NF

“ Norton Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spa thiphyllum for the family of Richard Wagler.



Norton Family - August 09, 2025 at 05:17 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Wagler.

August 08, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Richard Wagler.



August 08, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ *Josh and Heather Hemming* purchased the *Divine Peace Bouquet* for the family of Richard Wagler.



**Josh and Heather Hemming** - August 07, 2025 at 09:44 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Richard Wagler.

August 07, 2025 at 03:47 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Richard Wagler.



August 07, 2025 at 03:47 PM

ML

“ Lisa,  
So very sorry to hear about Rich's passing. So enjoyed being on the IFDA Board many years ago. Time has passed so quickly. Thoughts and prayers always.  
Michael Lensing

Michael Jay Lensing - August 06, 2025 at 04:20 PM

SW

“ Sue White lit a candle in memory of Richard Wagler



Sue White - August 06, 2025 at 10:13 AM

CF

“ Richard was a classmate during High School and was such a sweet person to all. He was indeed a man of immense compassion, involved in planning class reunions, a wonderful family man and will be so missed by so many. Sincere condolences to all who loved him, especially his family. May God draw near to bring strength, comfort and peace as well as precious memories to continue to bring a smile to your faces. Carla K. Fleming



Carla K Fleming - August 05, 2025 at 10:52 PM

JS

“ *Lisa and Family*

*Your husband and father was one of a kind. I remember moving to southern Iowa to start my funeral business in a nearby town, we quickly became colleagues and relied on each other when times got hectic. We never were competitors, only friends helping families at a difficult time. I can still hear his laugh and him saying to me - "Jon, I'll be downright truthful with ya". I gathered up a lot of good advice from him that helped me be successful. Our family extends our deepest condolences at this most difficult of times.*

*The Schmidt Family at  
Schmidt Family Funeral Homes  
Atlantic, Anita, Adair, Audubon & Exira, IA*

---

**Jon Schmidt** - August 05, 2025 at 01:35 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Richard Wagler.*



---

August 05, 2025 at 10:04 AM

SL

“ *Steven Lowe lit a candle in memory of Richard Wagler*



---

**Steven lowe** - August 04, 2025 at 11:55 PM

LR

“ Lynn Roberts lit a candle in memory of Richard Wagler



lynn roberts - August 04, 2025 at 09:49 PM

RC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time 🙏



Rebecca coyne - August 04, 2025 at 08:31 PM

KH

“ Few people have touched so many lives, being an anchor when he was so needed by others. My deepest sympathy for your loss and prayers that memories and the love of an entire community brings comfort for you all.

Kathy Hartwick - August 04, 2025 at 05:52 PM

RG

“ Regina Gooden lit a candle in memory of Richard Wagler



Regina Gooden - August 04, 2025 at 04:56 PM

RG

*Our thoughts, prayers and deepest sympathy to Lisa and his family. Richard was truly a unique and caring person who gave so much compassion to so many over the years. Richard made a difference.*

**Regina Gooden** - August 04, 2025 at 05:06 PM

ET

*Richard was a professional, respected person that served our community in a manner that was admired by all. My prayers and respect go out to all the Wagler Family. God bless!*

**Earl Trachsel** - August 04, 2025 at 05:58 PM

AR

*A kind and generous man gone too soon. My condolences to Lisa and family.*

**Anita Richardson** - August 08, 2025 at 11:44 AM

PF

*“Richard was a kind, humble, and dedicated man. He served as a pillar of the community. He put others before himself and did it with a smile, laugh, and sincerity. My heart sunk when I heard of his passing. I will be keeping you in my prayers during this time of grief.*

**Pastor Tim Frasher** - August 04, 2025 at 03:58 PM