



Richard Dean Kuehl

November 25, 1940 - January 28, 2026

Richard Dean Kuehl, 85 of Fayetteville passed away Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at his home. He was born November 25, 1940 in Cherokee, Iowa to Lester Kuehl and Elsie Gerstandt Kuehl.

Richard grew up in Calumet and Paullina Iowa. He graduated with a B.S. from Iowa State University in Ames and earned a Masters from University of Northern Iowa in Cedar Falls. He enjoyed running, playing pool, bridge, poker and Mah Jongg and traveling the U.S. and abroad.

He married Phyllis Meyer on August 20, 1965 in Ames Iowa.

He taught science in several Iowa Community Schools before moving to Springdale in 1978 where he taught science in the Springdale Public School System for twenty five years before retiring in 2005. Richard loved spending his time reading, and sharing books with his loved ones.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and one sister, Diane Yockey.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis Kuehl of the home; one brother, Randall Kuehl (Marcia) of Merville, Iowa; his sister-in-law, Bobbie See of Nixa, Missouri and several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services will be Thursday, February 5, 2026 at 1pm at First United Methodist Church in Springdale with Rev. Judy VanHoose and Rev. Joshua Bland officiating. The family will receive friends at a reception after the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Bread of Life, % First United Methodist Church, 206 W. Johnson Ave., Springdale, Arkansas 72764.

Online condolences may be left at www.siscofuneral.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 5 (CT)

First United Methodist Church
206 W Johnson Ave
Springdale, AR 72764

Tribute Wall

HR

“ *Mr. Kuehl was my very favorite teacher and such a neat person! He taught me algebra and physics. To this day I still talk about what a great teacher and good influence he was on my life. He will be missed!*

Holly Reeves - February 06 at 09:09 AM

MH

“ *I was one of Mr. Kuehl's physics students in 1988. I *still* talk about what a wonderful teacher I think he was. My first semester of physics in college was a walk in the park because of him. Me. Kuehl is one of the relatively few people that had a tangible positive effect on the trajectory of my life. Rest in peace, Mr. Kuehl!*

Matt Hays - February 05 at 01:22 PM

MB

“ *Richard was a dear dear friend for over 50 years. In all those years, I cannot recall Richard ever saying a negative word about anyone. He was always positive and upbeat. He had a great sense of humor and a quick wit, often bringing laughter to our gatherings. One time at a lunch with friends, Dennis noticed Richard had a medical bracelet on, indicating that he had been to see a doctor. Dennis pointed to it and said, "I hope your appointment went well." Richard leaned in very very close to Dennis and said "He said it's HIGHLY CONTAGIOUS!" Everyone leaned back away and then burst into laughter. That was Richard, bringing joy and laughter to those around him. I could go on and on listing his many accomplishments, but it's his friendship that I'll miss most.*

Michelle Boles - February 05 at 10:15 AM

DL

“ I remember Richard as one of my favorite customers. He was smart, kind and generous. He also had a great sense of humor. He and I shared memories of living in Iowa City. I admired his overcoming adversity and showing compassion towards others, including his students. I am grateful I got to know him and Phyllis.

Dianne Larsen - February 02 at 09:08 AM



“ I had Mr. Kuehl as my chemistry teacher at Springdale high. I consider him the best teacher i ever had in school. A wonderful teacher and outstanding man! I had a student last year with a severe stuttering problem and I told him about Mr Kuehl overcoming that issue and becoming the greatest teacher. That student was inspired by him. My prayers are with his family.

Jeff Snow - February 01 at 02:13 PM

KM

“ Mr. Kuehl was my Chemistry teacher for the 1985-86 school year at Springdale High School and he tutored me in Physics during my first year of college. He was an outstanding teacher and an awesome person and he always took time to help others. I use the fundamentals and methods that he taught me with my students today. I have a lot of great memories of being in his class. Prayers for the family during this challenging time.

Kerry Melton - January 31 at 03:40 PM

RH

“ Mr. Kuehl taught my son and daughter at SHS in the early 90's. There were many good teachers at SHS during their high school years. But there were 2 that stood out not only as outstanding teachers, but also exceptional people who loved their students and respected them as individuals. They didn't just teach their chosen subjects; they taught about life--how to treat their fellow human beings. Those 2 were Mr. Kuehl and Ms Ellison. I am so grateful for the time out of Mr. Kuehl's life that he dedicated himself to shaping young lives--not just teaching a subject. Years later I worked with Mrs. Kuehl at George Elementary. I soon learned they were just alike in their love for their chosen profession, and those students in their classrooms every year. Phyllis, you and Mr. Kuehl are a legacy few can attain. I pray for your comfort and peace. I know he will be greatly missed. You are loved.

Rhonda Meeks Hotchkiss

Rhonda Hotchkiss - January 31 at 01:13 PM

SS

“ Mr. Kuehl was my AP physics teacher in 1998. I've always loved math but I struggled with physics. I remember I couldn't understand how ice water stayed at 32F as long as some ice was still there. He filled a beaker up with ice and water and gave me a thermometer and I monitored the temperature all period. Things finally click and now over 25 years later I'm a chemical engineer with ExxonMobil. Thank you Mr. Kuehl for always finding a way to help me understand physics. I will always remember you.

Sarah Graves Smith - January 31 at 12:12 PM

KP

“ As a veteran educator and former Physics student of Mr. Kiehl, I can honestly say he’s one of the reasons I became a teacher. Before “growth mindset” was even a catchphrase in education, Mr. Kiehl believed all his students were capable of being scientists. He pushed us in our thinking, and he went above and beyond to make AP Physics accessible to us all. He was humorous, kind, and encouraging. He made a difference in so many of our lives, and I try to pay his kindness to me forward in the lives of my own students. He was one of a kind, and I hope to someday make an impact on my students like he did on his. God bless you, Mr. Kiehl.

Kaci Phipps - January 31 at 11:33 AM

AD

“ Thank you, Mr. Kuehl, for everything. I use Physics everyday for my job, and I never will forget the foundation you gave me to succeed. May you rest in the loving arms of Jesus.

Ashley Dunford - January 31 at 11:07 AM

CR

“ What a great teacher and awesome human. He had a significant affect on my love of science which led me to med school. A life well lived Mr. Kuehl.

Cara Riley - January 31 at 09:04 AM

MH

“ He was the best teacher ever. He taught me physics but he taught so much more than that by the life he lived. He was committed to his work, he made every student feel special, he cared about what his students were interested in and what goals they had and he was a true mentor. I’m now a speech pathologist and an educator and I hope to be even half the educator he was! He taught me to be a life long learner. He had such a contagious passion for work, life, and people! He was a difficult teacher yet every student loved him. Everyone who met him loved him and his legacy will live on in a big way!

Melody Harris - January 31 at 08:51 AM

JJ

“ Mr. Kuehl got me to love physics in high school. His passion for teaching was so infectious that I signed up for his AP Physics class the next year just so I could have him as a teacher again. As a teacher myself I often strive to be as understanding to my students as he was to us. A story I tell every year is how he would grade out tests in such detail that if we made a single miscalculation we were only counted off for that wrong answer. He would then use that wrong answer to move forward in the problem rather than just count everything wrong. A time commitment that would have been hours for every major test. May he rest in peace and not forgotten.

Jared Jones - January 30 at 11:06 PM

JP

“ He was my Physics teacher. Turned me onto electronics that served me well in the US Navy as a submarine radioman/electronics technician. Passing his class is what got me out of HS to my next step. Thank you sir. You are fondly remembered everyday since. - Justin Phillips, SHS Class of '91. SOH CAH TOA ;-)

Justin Phillips - January 30 at 10:59 PM

LG

“ He was my jr high algebra teacher and high school chemistry Teacher. He helped me develop my love of math. I’m now a CPA. He was a kind and patient man, and I loved having him as my teacher. I don’t live in Springdale anymore, and have lost touch with him. I’m saddened to read of his passing, but am sending prayers for peace. Sincerely, Laura Zurborg Grimes

Laura Grimes - January 30 at 10:52 PM

SW

“ Richard was my next door neighbor in the new Science wing at Springdale High for many years. He was a very special friend and definitely a favorite of mine. I loved talking to him every day. He was so kind, supportive, and fun. He was a great physics teacher as well and the students loved him. I was just thinking of him the other day and wondering how he was doing. It makes my heart sad to hear he has passed on but I sincerely hope I get to see him again in heaven some day.

Sandy Wright - January 30 at 10:37 PM

AR

“ I always enjoyed his class, had him for physics in 1992. He will be missed.

Andy Reed - January 30 at 10:31 PM

CH

“ Mr Kuehl was one of my absolutely favorite teachers. So kind, funny, energetic, and amazing at breaking down complex concepts over and over until they seemed so easy. He had a special gift as a human and as a teacher. He will be remembered.

Crystal Hawley - January 30 at 10:27 PM

RC

“ Dick was a friend and colleague. I always admired his outlook on life through his many health struggles. He was an encouragement to me when I went through some of those same struggles.

Dick lived his life as an example to others.

He will be missed.

Robert and Beverly Carter

Robert and Beverly Carter - January 30 at 10:11 PM

SP

“ Mr. Kuehl was one of those teachers you never forget. He got students up, involved, and excited about learning, and somehow made physics feel fun and approachable. Looking back, it wasn't really the subject that made the difference...it was him. He was kind, deeply caring, and truly passionate about science and his students. Over decades of teaching, he touched more lives than he probably ever knew. Please know that his impact lives on through the many students who still remember him with gratitude and affection.

Stacey Watt Plumlee

Stacey Watt Plumlee - January 30 at 10:10 PM

SS

“ Mr Kuehl was my teacher at Central Jr. High and I lived by him out at Hickory Creek. He recommended me as a babysitter to Carrie Baker Helmkamp which brought Megan and Mason into my life. Several years ago he recognized my Dad at McDonalds one morning and asked about me. So my Dad called me and handed the phone to Mr. Kuelh. Absolutely made my day. He will be missed but remembered with love.

Shara Stacks - January 30 at 08:11 PM

CC

“ *Phyllis, so sorry to hear this news. Carl and I got to know Dick and become great friends. Prayers for you and family. He will be missed so much.*

carl and Molly Campbell - January 30 at 06:55 PM

RR

“ *Richard was an outstanding person, good friend, fellow scientist, excellent bridge player and devoted to Phyllis. He was an all around teacher in this area and well appreciated. Our hearts go out to Phyllis and his family.*

Russell G Rhodes - January 30 at 04:17 PM

RL

I will always remember him as a teacher. I had classmates making fun of me and I ask him if I could be moved. He moved me up front by his desk. Also I always enjoyed seeing him and Phyllis at the church. He was a good man and will be missed.

Rhonda Leslie - January 30 at 04:33 PM

RL

Phyllis your family in my thoughts and prayers. I love you.

Rhonda Leslie - January 30 at 04:46 PM

SD

So very sorry to know of the passing of your dear husband. Please know that your P.E.O. Sisters in Cedar Falls, are holding you in prayer.

Sherrie Dreyer - January 30 at 08:19 PM

SC

I had Mr. Kuehl at CJHS for Algebra and for Chemistry at SHS. He had great stories to go with his lessons (only baseball game he played, why he went to college), and loved that when he wouldn't get the word "monomial" out, he would say "you know what I am saying". He was a great teacher! Scott Tyler '87

Scott - January 31 at 10:00 AM

SB

“ One of the best educators I have had the privilege of knowing. Such a good person. Always kind, always smiling. You are loved and will be missed.

Condolences to Phyllis. You're in my heart and prayers.

Sonja Bennett

Sonja Bennett - January 30 at 03:43 PM

LR

Sending prayers and love to the family during this time.

Linda Reimer - January 31 at 10:53 AM

RR

Dick and Phyllis were great friends and wonderful teachers. I know Dick was very dedicated to his students always going the extra mile to help them learn. Their friendship and support was very special to me. I pray for Phyllis to have strength and peace at this difficult time.

Rhonda Rich - February 04 at 03:31 AM