



## Rusty O'Dell

October 2, 1959 - December 21, 2021

Russell Franklin “Rusty” O’Dell Jr, age 62, of Higginsville, MO, was taken home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, December 21, 2021.

Rusty was born on October 2, 1959 in Kansas City, MO. He graduated from Richmond High School in 1977. After graduating he had many occupations including the Kansas City Star, Wagner Brake, Harrison’s Body Shop, Warrensburg Area Career Center, ATI, Air Filtration Co, Inc., co-owned NHRA Top Dragster race team Howard Motorsports and owned and operated O’Dell’s Radiator and Collision Repair since 1995. Rusty was an active member of the Higginsville Lion’s Club and sat on the Auto Body Advisory Board for the Lex-La-Ray Vo-Tech school.

Rusty was a one of a kind soul that touched the lives of everyone he met. He mentored many aspiring young car enthusiasts in his years of owning a body shop and teaching. It was not uncommon for him to receive several calls a day from someone wanting to pick his brain or get advice and he happily made time to help anyone that asked. Rusty didn’t know a stranger and if you spent any amount of time with him, then you definitely heard a story or two. Many of them involved his favorite pastime of working on race cars. He loved hot rods, but he loved his family even more. He married the love of his life, Karen (Bennett), on May 21, 1994 and together they built a family full of love that their three children and seven grandchildren could always call home. He was so proud of each of his kids and grandkids, and was never happier than when he was spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Karen O'Dell of the home; daughter, Regina (Louie) Harrelson of Warrensburg; sons - Ricky (Shawna) Howard of Higginsville and Kenny Rosencrans of Higginsville; grandchildren, John Davidson, Brook Davidson, Tanner Good, Ashtyn Howard, Kamryn Howard, Jordyn Howard, and Lillie Rosencrans; brother, Chuck O'Dell; sister, Linda (Randy) Foster; and brother-in-law, Tim Amert.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Russ O'Dell and Esther O'Dell-Coburn; his sister, Becky Amert and his son-in-law, Jim Eichler.

A visitation will be held from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Thursday, December 23, 2021 at Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home located at 1600 Main St. Higginsville, MO. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, December 24, 2021 at Salem United Church of Christ in Higginsville with Rev. Tim Biesemeyer officiating. Burial will immediately follow in the Higginsville City Cemetery. Casket Bearers: Aric Camp, Billy Hall, Steve Lile, Jesse McDaniel, Bob Nuelle, Mike Overstreet, Lawrence Ransdell, Mike Weber. Honorary Casket Bearers: Don Bartley, Don Nieman, Steve Terrell, Jim Wampler. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Higginsville Lions Club.

# Cemetery Details

## City Cemetery

2275-2491 Lipper Ave.  
Higginsville, MO 64037

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC **23**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Stewart-Hoefer Funeral Home, Inc.  
1600 Main St.  
Higginsville, MO 64037  
1-660-584-3400  
hoeferfuneralhome@gmail.com  
<http://www.stewarthoeferfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Service

DEC **24**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Salem United Church of Christ  
1500 N Main St.  
Higginsville, MO 64037  
salemucc@ctcis.net  
<http://www.salemucchigginsville.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rusty O'Dell*

October 22, 2023 at 02:42 PM



“ *Rusty O'Dell*

October 07, 2023 at 11:48 AM



“ *Rusty O'Dell*

October 06, 2023 at 07:00 AM



“ *Rusty O'Dell*

January 31, 2023 at 02:49 AM



“ *1 file added to the album funeral*



**Marshall Stewart Sr.** - December 24, 2021 at 05:35 PM

KW

“ TO THE FAMILY RUSTY WAS AMAZING YOUNG MAN I HAVE MANY AMAZING MEMORIES! RUSTY WAS WAS MAN WHO WAS NEVER TO BUSY TO GIVE A HELPING HAND! HE TRUELY SHOW IT IN EVERYTHING HE FID FOR SURE ! HE TRUELY LIVED LIFE IT FULLEST HE WILL BE DEARLY MISSED ! YOU HAVE MY DEEPEST SYMPATHY!



KATHY WOODEN - December 24, 2021 at 09:24 AM

CW

“ Charles And Lorena Wilson lit a candle in memory of Rusty O'Dell



Charles and Lorena Wilson - December 23, 2021 at 06:38 PM

AB

“ Adam Barnes lit a candle in memory of Rusty O'Dell



Adam Barnes - December 23, 2021 at 04:22 PM

AB

*Rusty was a great friend to me . My heart is broken . The automotive Industry has lost a icon . Rest In pease my friend . I will always remember you while working on the what you built .*

Adam Barnes - December 23, 2021 at 04:42 PM



“ *Rusty was one of the good guys. I truly believe we will all be back together again.* ”

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**Gary Carroll** - December 22, 2021 at 07:52 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Rusty O'Dell.* ”



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December 22, 2021 at 06:45 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Rusty O'Dell.* ”



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December 22, 2021 at 01:10 PM

DA

“ To Karen, Ricky, Regina, and Kenny,

*Please accept my condolences on Rusty's passing. Rusty and I only met a few times in his life, but he was plenty of fun to be around.*

*Rusty asked me at a Christmas gathering in 2003 at Tim and Becky's home in Rochester, MN before Becky passed away, "Dan, how come Tim is so tall and thin and you're short and fat." I replied, "Milkman." Rusty and all of the adults got a great laugh and the kids wondered what I said.*

*I also remember Rusty walking with me after Becky's funeral and he said to me, "Those kids (Chris, Joel, and Matthew) are going to miss their mom." I said, "We'll all need to help them out." I know Rusty helped them and he helped everyone he met. I know Rusty loved you all very much.*

*I wish the blessings Jesus Christ can offer you through these difficult times ahead. I will continue praying for you.*

*Dan Amert*

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**Dan Amert** - December 22, 2021 at 01:00 PM