



## Ernest Middleton Jr.

May 21, 1953 - April 14, 2024

Ernest Middleton Jr., 70 of Halbur, died Sunday, April 14, 2024 at St. Anthony Regional Hospital in Carroll.

Private services will be held.

Funeral arrangements are under the guidance of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll and online condolences may be left for Ernest's family at [www.sharpfuneral.com](http://www.sharpfuneral.com).

Ernest James Middleton II, 70, passed away on April 14, 2024 after a short battle with cancer. Ernest was born May 21, 1953, in Waterloo, IA to Ernest James Middleton of Waterloo, IA and Millicent May Hendrickson of Cardiff Wales. Ernest attended Waterloo East High School and graduated in 1971. While at East High School he participated in wrestling and football. He received a wrestling scholarship at Winona State where he earned NAIA All-American Honors three times, finishing 4th, 3rd and 2nd place. Ernest earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Life Science from Winona State University in Winona, MN. There he was later inducted into the National Hall of Fame in 2018. Ernest pursued a career in education (teaching and coaching) and impacted the lives of thousands of students in Minnesota, Iowa and Texas. Teaching was his passion. Outside of the classroom he was passionate about anything associated with the outdoors. He enjoyed and took pride in his

garden, fishing, riding bike, grilling and watching movies with Denise.

Ernest married Carol Baer, and from that union four sons were born: Ernest James (Carrie), Damion Ray (Chuntel), Keane Niles, and Brandon Anthony (Denise). The couple later divorced. Ernest also has a daughter Siri, and a son Corey.

In 2000, Ernest married Denise Riesselman with whom he enjoyed his last thirty-one years. They made their home in Halbur, IA. He enjoyed helping his father and mother-in-law with their outdoor work. He loved visiting with the neighbors while grilling for everyone.

Ernest is survived by his wife Denise, his children, many grandchildren and great grandchildren, his siblings Valerie Allen, Joseph Middleton, and Kelly Shineflew, half-sisters: Leona Middleton and Maggie Middleton Isaac, nieces, nephews, great nieces, great nephews and a plethora of friends. He is also survived by his in-laws Dean (Doris) Riesselman, DeAnn Eischeid, Deb Neubauer, Dan (Jeannie) Riesselman.

He is preceded in death by his father and mother, his brothers Melville Peter, Keith Spite, and Shawn Richards and one sister Millicent Williams Shabazz. Leonard and Donna Riesselman (mother and father-in-law) and Randy Eischeid (brother-in-law).

# Tribute Wall

RC

“ *My sincere condolences to the whole Middletton family. I knew Earnest for 50 plus years and he and his family were always so kind and thoughtful. May God heal your sorrow and hear our prayers. God bless you all in this difficult time.*

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**Rex Coen** - April 24, 2024 at 05:22 PM

AG

“ *I attended Winona State and was privileged to have gotten to know Ernie as we had to take a lot of the same classes. I also liked to watch the wrestling meets and he was a darn good athlete and a better person. We ran into each other years later when he came to my work place (Mayo Clinic) and we shared a brief visit, laughed and wished each other well. Never saw him again- bless his soul.*

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**Angel Garcia** - April 23, 2024 at 09:28 PM

GM

“ *Ernie, Your focus and command from the mat was something to watch! A Warrior Forever 🇺🇸*

*Prayers and Blessings to the entire Middleton family 🙏*

*Greg and Kim Mauer*

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**Greg Mauer** - April 23, 2024 at 07:34 PM

MS

“Denise and family, I was so sorry to hear of Ernest's passing. We don't know the plans God has for each of us but it sounds like he touched many souls while living that needed his special gift of kindness. I ask God to comfort your soul as you continue without him. Much love and prayers, Mary Ann Schulte

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**Mary Ann Schulte** - April 22, 2024 at 03:17 PM

LW

“Denise, our sympathy for your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Leon and Cathy Williams** - April 19, 2024 at 06:41 PM

JD

“Sorry to hear about the passing of my life long friend Ernest. We grew up as neighbors in Waterloo .I loved him like a brother. Condolences and much love to his entire family.

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**John Dunn** - April 18, 2024 at 10:55 AM

PS

“Denise, so very sorry to hear of Ernie's death. Keeping you in prayer.  
Peg Scheidt

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**Peg Scheidt** - April 17, 2024 at 07:52 PM

RU

Denise so sorry for your loss. Really enjoyed working with Ernest and you. Prayers to you and your family. He will always be remembered.

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**Ruth.Dillavou** - April 17, 2024 at 09:28 PM

RS

“ *Condolences and heartfelt sympathy are extended to the family at this time of grief. We are praying for you. May God 's comfort and His peace be yours. Rev. Monica Stovall*



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**Rev. Monica Stovall** - April 15, 2024 at 09:28 PM

NH

*I remember the nice talks we had about our childhood and I think we tried to best each other about how cold we got in the winter time. He did have a rough time growing up and I really enjoyed talking to him. He never really complained about how much he must of been hurting. He could be so funny too and he was so good to the clients and they just wanted to please him. All he had to do was walk into the room and they were happy to see him. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. He is in a better place and will be with friends and family that have gone on before. Prayers and Blessings to his friends and family still here, Nikki Holmes*

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**Nicola Holmes** - April 16, 2024 at 10:30 AM