



Loren Richard Giles

August 3, 1938 - September 8, 2025

Loren Richard Giles was born August 3, 1938, in Webb City, MO. He graduated from Webb City High School in 1956 and then served 11 years in the National Guard Reserves, promoted to Sergeant 1st Class. He received a Bachelor of Science in Education with a major in Physical Education in 1963 and Masters of Science Education from Pittsburg State University in 1972. On August 24, 1963, he married the love of his life, Joyce Johnson, at Neosho Christian Church. In 1974, they welcomed their daughter Emily and, two years later their son, John. "Mr. Giles" or "Coach Giles" worked for the Diamond School District in many roles for 33 years, 17 of those as high school principal. "Retiring" in 1997, he worked as a guidance counselor at College Heights Christian School for 8 years and substituted at Diamond until 2016. Richard served as Mayor for the City of Diamond for two terms and was a deacon and elder at Diamond Christian Church. Richard was a loyal volunteer and supporter of Ronald McDonald House. He delivered Meals on Wheels, sang in the choir, gardened, played softball & golf, and mowed yards with John; teaching him from a young age to do things right because "doing a job well might be all someone knows about you and your Lord!". He was a loyal fan of the St. Louis Cardinals and Kansas City Chiefs. Richard valued family deeply. He had to wait till he was 75 to be "Grandpa," but for his last 12 years his granddaughters, Suzie and Annie, were his greatest delight. After a long struggle with Parkinson's and dementia he passed on to Glory on

September 8, 2025. He is preceded in death by daughter Emily, wife Joyce, parents Loren and Bessie Giles, maternal grandparents Juanita & John Edgmond and paternal grandparents Aleta (Leeta) & Elmer Giles, sister and brother-in-law Linda & Don Mosby, an infant brother, and many family & friends.

He leaves behind loyal and faithful son & caretaker, John, and family Dalenna, Suzanne, and Annalise Giles of Diamond, MO, sister Nancy Angel of Neosho, MO, sister in-law Sherry and John Kitchens of Vero Beach, FL and nieces and nephews.

A visitation will be held on Friday, September 19 at Diamond Christian Church 205 E. Market St. Diamond, MO from 4-6 pm. A Celebration of Life Service will be held on Saturday, September 20 at Diamond Christian Church in Diamond, MO at 11:00 am.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the family for end-of-life expenses or in his name to God's Resort Joplin or Ronald McDonald House. He will be buried at Diamond Cemetery in Diamond, MO.

Arrangements are made with Midland Cremation Society in Joplin, Missouri.

Tribute Wall

AR

“Richard was a beloved volunteer at Ronald McDonald House of the Four States. The impact on those of us who had the privilege to know him was invaluable. Oftentimes, young parents staying at Ronald McDonald House recognized Richard from their school days and greeted him warmly as “Mr. Giles”. His presence and warm familiar smile helped put them at ease. His shared life experiences helped provide empathy for the families we served which led to a greater understanding and ways to serve them.

He was a caring, compassionate and highly intelligent man who deeply loved his family, his students and the education community with whom he worked. He looked forward in his retirement years to his meeting for coffee with other superintendents.

I looked forward to our Tuesday morning conversations at which time Richard and I would “solve many of our world’s problems” including those rare seasons when his beloved St. Louis Cardinals may have been a bit lacking in their game.

One very memorable moment includes a party for Richard on the occasion he volunteered at Ronald McDonald House on his birthday. He was a bit overwhelmed and humbly grateful and a great sport at putting on that birthday hat. Richard lived a life meant to be imitated and celebrated.

Today, I celebrate Richard’s life. I also share in the sorrow of family and friends.

Annette C. Thurtson
Retired Executive Director
Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Four States

Annette Thurston, Retired Exec Dir RMHC - September 13, 2025 at 03:50 PM

DA

Thank you for your sweet words Annette! ~Dalenna Giles

Dalenna - September 14, 2025 at 11:27 PM

JO

“ *I'm so sorry to hear this about Richard. He was a faithful volunteer at the Ronald House for many years. It was my honor & privilege to know him.*

Sincerely, Joy Morris

Joy - September 12, 2025 at 06:50 PM

BM

“ *John and family, So sad to hear of your dad's death. He will be missed. Praying for you all. Your Mom and Emily will be waiting at the door for him.....* **Becky Martin**

Becky Martin - September 12, 2025 at 02:35 AM