

Raymond Eugene Lahar, age 78, of Great Bend, Kansas passed away surrounded by loving family, on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Wesley Woodlawn Hospital, in Wichita, soaring high with the eagles from heaven.

Raymond was born on September 4, 1947, in Eureka, Kansas. He was the second child born of Clarence Raymond "Jack" and Margaret Rae (Thompson) Lahar. He attended public schools in Eureka and El Dorado. He completed the automotive technician program at Butler Community College. In his younger years he enjoyed hunting and fishing and helping his grandfather Cecil Thompson in the fields and irritating his older sister Almeta Rae. Many stories have been heard about the numerous "pets," animals, and wildlife Raymond would bring home that his mom would allow or find in the house.

Raymond roughnecked in the oilfields and overcame his fear of heights while climbing the rigs. His most lively memories growing up almost always involved some sort of motorized car, scooter or cycle and his friends, Mike and Ted Larcom and his cousin Billy Gene Lahar, who remained close until his passing December 2016. Raymond married his high school sweetheart Arzella Rae "Zip" Slead on April 22, 1967. He was blessed with two daughters, Lynetta Rae and Pamela Michele with Zip. They raised their family in Great Bend, KS. After working on the rigs, Raymond was employed by Gibson, Titus, & Stafford. Over the course of employment, he also worked at Straub International, Southwest Truck Parts and Abercrombie, Inc.

Raymond opened his own Diesel Automotive Business, known as Lahar's Drive Train Specialties in the mid-1980s, after operating it out of his garage on the side for several years rebuilding PTO's. Raymond was known as one of the best truck mechanics and PTO rebuilders around Western Kansas. He opened his shop on Railroad Avenue in Great Bend mid 1980's and later moved to a larger building on 8th street. After the girls were married and left the home Raymond once again found his love of motorcycles to be his passion when he wasn't hunting. He loved long road trips, sometimes with friends, but often as a lone wolf. He enjoyed the freedom of the open road.

Arzella, his wife of nearly 33 years, passed away March 28, 1999. Her passing left Raymond devastated. He later stated repeatedly that his work at the shop and his Harley Road King saved him. In visiting his Uncle Jack Hellstern in the hospital in Arkansas, Raymond met a very caring nurse. Her compassion for her patients struck an instant love in him. He mentioned one time it was love at first sight. In 2002 he married Margie (Thomas) Tiger Lahar. Raymond had said over the course of many years she was the love of his life, his soul mate. She passed away in a tragic accident at the home in 2003, leaving Raymond once again devastated and heartbroken. It was during this difficult time that Raymond turned more to his motorcycle riding and the escape it brought. Even with the comfort of his daughters, six grandchildren, and his motorcycle, a void remained.

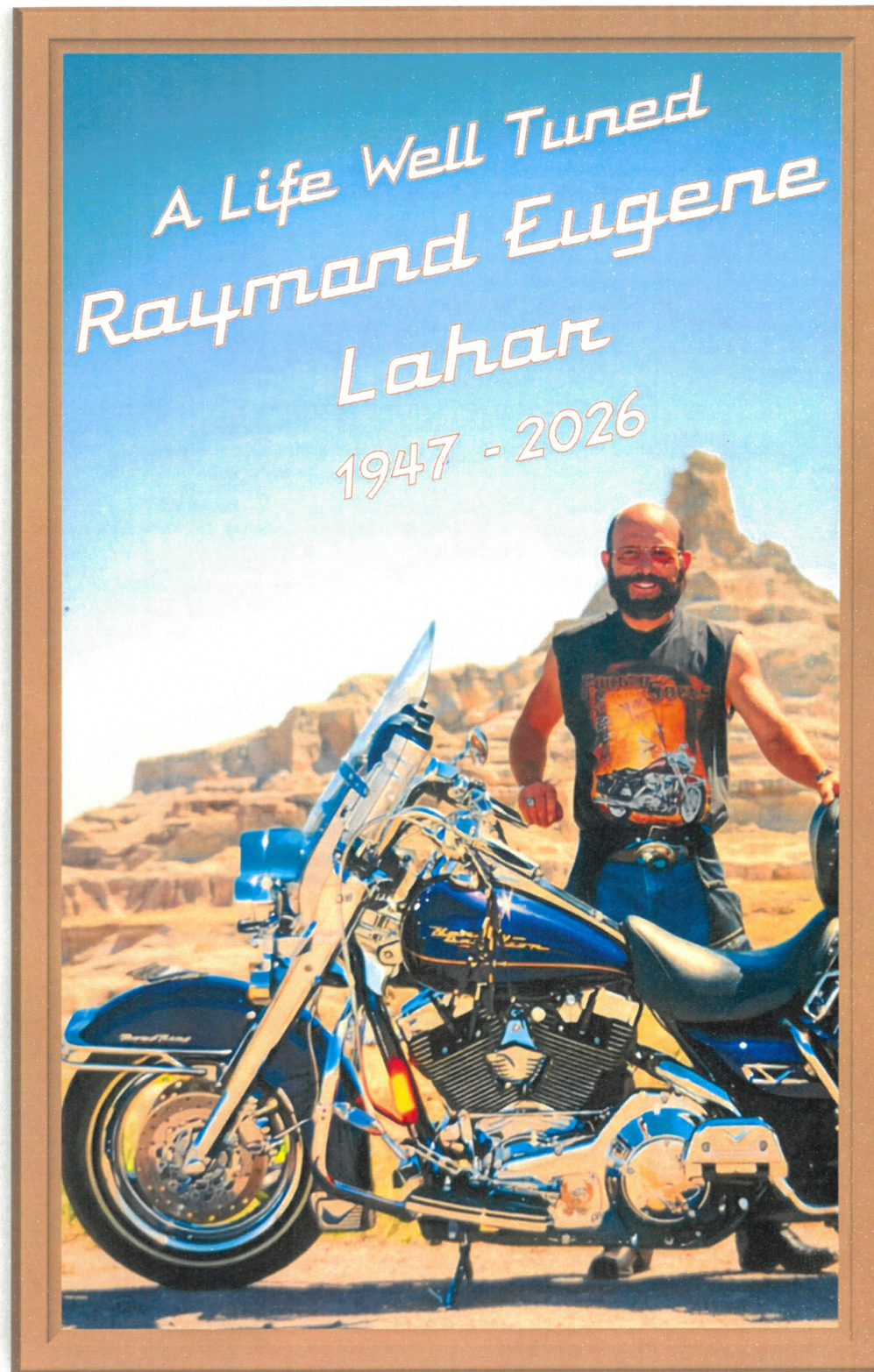
In Summer (June) 2005 his cousin, Billy Gene Lahar introduced Raymond to Teresa (Rondeau) Palmer of Chase, Kansas. The two were married on August 20, 2005. They made their home in Great Bend, KS. In December 2012, Raymond suffered his first massive stroke and had stated multiple times his body and memory would never be the same. Although he struggled with names, he could still recall mechanical details and fond memories with family and friends. Raymond continued working after the stroke but found riding his motorcycle becoming more of a struggle. He purchased a slingshot and once again became one with road trips, with Teresa joining in some adventures. Raymond retired from Lahar's Drive Train Specialties in June 2019 and sold his life's business in 2020.

Raymond leaves behind his wife, Teresa of Great Bend; daughters, Lynetta and husband, Kevin Shaw of Eureka, Kansas; Pamela and husband, Mike Kurtz of Junction City, Kansas; sister, Almeta Beck of Eureka, currently residing in Wichita; grandchildren: Remington (Jaye) Shaw, Ruger (Jordan) Shaw, Colton Shaw, Chase Shaw, Katilyn (Daniel) Slaton, and Chance (Katherine) Kurtz; his precious great-grandchildren: Amelia & Anna Slaton, and Barrett Shaw; and his stepfamilies from two marriages. He is preceded in death by his parents, Jack & Margaret; his wife, Arzella; his wife, Margie; his granddaughter, LySandra Shaw; his great-grandchildren, Lawson Shaw and Palmer Shaw; and his brother-in-law, Harold Beck, Jr.

Memories of Raymond reflect that he was hard but fair and honest as they come. Nothing was given to him, and hard work was instilled at a very early age, and his handshake was as good as swearing on the Bible. He was a no-nonsense man. His colorful language seemed to just be a part of descriptive adjectives in his sentences. To know Raymond meant to accept him just as he was. Raymond would engineer, build, and construct anything he could dream up. Some of the fondest memories of their dad were camping, boating Lake Wilson weekends with friends. One thing which holds the best memories for his girls was his handmade engineered super souped-up dune buggy he painted purple, and the trips to Little Sahara in Oklahoma. He later made it street legal and received stares wherever he went. He later sold it to purchase a Harley.

Raymond requested cremation and burial next to Arzella and his parents. Memorial services will be held at 11:00 A.M., Monday, April 6, 2026, at Koup Family Funeral Home, Eureka. In honor of Raymond's lifelong passion for the open road, motorcyclists are encouraged to ride their bikes to the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to the Great Bend-Brit Spagh Zoo. Contributions may be sent in care of Koup Family Funeral Home, PO Box 595, Eureka KS 67045, which is overseeing arrangements. Condolences may be left for the family online, at [koupfunerals.com](http://koupfunerals.com).



**What do you think of when you hear the name Raymond Lahar?**

The list is long, so I decided to just list my top 10 things I think of when I think of my Uncle Raymond Lahar.

10. Armor All: What can I say, you over used this product in all your vehicles. Even before seat belt laws, wearing one in your vehicle was necessary to remain in one spot. Needless to say we would slide from side to side like we were on ice

9. Cool Stuff: I think about all the cool stuff you had in the basement. From making your own ammo, to the compound bows and arrow heads, the Snap-On calendars and the hand guns. One item stands out the most. I could only look at and was not allowed to touch or play with. The totally cool miniature gas powered trike. Did I mention the Snap-On calendars?

8. Hair: Knowing you have more hair on your chest than on your head. But most impressed by the perfect beard. No matter how hard I try I can not get a beard like that. Unfortunately my brother has joined you in the chest vs. head category and I fear I'm not far behind.

7. Eagles: Everywhere you look there are eagles. Buying for you is simple, just anything with an eagle on it and you are happy. I'm sure over the years you have gotten duplicates.

6. Harley Davidson: Over the years you have upgraded your ride, with each one customizing it and making it your own. But when I think of the bikes I also think about the trip you let me join with you and your friends to New Mexico. That trip was amazing for me in many ways. For starters it was the first time I actually felt like an adult around you. I will cherish that experience the rest of my life.

5. Role Model: You have always been a great role model to me. The fact that you took a chance to follow your dream and become your own boss. From starting out in your little one car garage at home, to renting your first shop, and finally owning your own building. You showed me that if you work hard you can succeed

4. Dunne Buggy: The scary yet awesome rides. The white knuckle gripping rides where unforgettable. I always prayed weather would be good enough to score a ride when we visited. I think I almost peed my pants a few times.

3. The "F" Word: One thing I could count on was hearing you say the "f" word. I think you are the only person I know that could use an "f" type word as the verb, adjective and the noun in the same sentence

2. Family: You showed me how you would do anything for your daughters. You might be the only guy I know that pees sitting down. You raised two wonderful girls and taught them how to be strong and vocal.

1. Uncle: Finally the number one thing I think of is that you are my uncle. A man that is all of the things I've listed. You have given me a place to stay and food to eat when I needed it. You have been a positive role model for me. You have taught me so much through the years and for that I am truly grateful. I look up to you and admire all that you have done. So with that being said, I hope you get well soon so you can keep teaching me the ways of a Lahar.

**Get Well Soon, so you can put an "f"ing boot up my ass!**

— Darren Beck, 2012



In Memory of  
**Raymond Eugene Lahar**

Date of Birth  
**September 4, 1947**  
Eureka, Kansas

Date of Death  
**March 26, 2026**  
Eureka, Kansas

Memorial Services  
**11:00 A.M., Monday,**  
**April 6, 2026**  
Koup Family Funeral Home  
Eureka, Kansas

Clergy  
**Pastor Chuck Carpenter**  
Kansas City, Kansas

Music  
"Amazing Grace"  
"Daddy's Hands"  
"Dad's Don't Die"

Inurnment  
A private family inurnment  
will take place at a later date  
at Greenwood Cemetery,  
Eureka, Kansas.

Memorial contributions may be  
made to the  
Great Bend-Brit Spauhs Zoo  
and left in care of the funeral home.



*Keep the Shiny Side Up*