



## Carol J. Poland

May 31, 1939 - December 23, 2018

Carol J. Poland, 79  
Kearney resident

Carol J. Poland, 79 of Kearney, died Sunday, December 23, 2018 at her home surrounded by family. A Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 am Friday, December 28, 2018 at St. James Catholic Church in Kearney. Father Art Faesser will officiate. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be 5:00 to 7:00 pm Thursday at the O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home followed by a 7:00 pm Vigil/Prayer Service.

Memorials are suggested to St. James Catholic Church. Condolences may be shared online at <http://www.osrfh.com>. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

I suppose that most people do not write their own obituary, but while my beautiful and successful daughters were a bit reluctant, I decided that after all that they've done for me, this is something I wanted to do for them.

I was born on May 31, 1939, to loving parents, Steve and Agnes (Kamarad) Gruber. I was welcomed into the world by a midwife, Mrs. Benson, and Dr. McDaniels in Sargent, NE. Being the third-born daughter, I was always facing the challenge of living up to my beloved oldest sister, Bonnie (Sullivan) Hoffheins, who passed to a better place in February, 2000, and my sister, Margaret Howard, from Grand Island, two years my senior who also passed to a better place in October, 2018. Both sisters were gifted with musical ability, and we all loved to play and sing. We grew up on a farm east of Sargent, NE. I attended Phillipsburg District 36 Country School and later Sargent High School graduating in 1956. I then attended Marymount College in Salina, KS, from 1956-60 graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. One of the highlights of my college days occurred during my senior year when I was crowned Miss Marymount, one of the highest honors bestowed on a Marymount graduate. I also loved drama and singing and had the lead in the play "Electra." During my c

college summers, I worked at Mt. Rushmore to put myself through college. I was able to climb the mountain and stood on President Lincoln's head.

After graduating from college in 1960, I joined the teaching staff at Goodland High School as a science and physical education teacher. I later taught in Grand Island at Walnut Junior High School. Upon returning to Sargent in 1962, I married Larry Poland at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary's Catholic Church on December 27. After teaching PE and health several years at Sargent Public School, I received my Master's Degree in counseling from Kearney State College in 1986, the year before it became part of the University system. I was then a counselor in Merna and Sargent for 12 years. I retired from my Sargent counseling position in 2001 and opened an office in Broken Bow (New Potentials' Mental Health Clinic) with a partner, Pat Smith. Then in 2005 Larry and I moved from Sargent to Kearney where I had my own counseling office (New Horizons Hypnosis and Counseling) until I retired for good in 2013. During my retirement years, I spent time volunteering at Good Samaritan Hospital and the cancer center.

In Sargent, Larry and I raised four daughters, Laurie Poland of Johnson Lake, Lisa Mannlein, Cari Mestl, and Katrina (Hanke) Hamilton all of Kearney. I gained three sons-in-law, 10 wonderful grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren: Tim (Lisa) Mannlein with 2 daughters Morgan (husband John Metzger and son Emmett) and Tessa (fiance John DeLaet); Ken (Cari) Mestl with Michaela (husband Jarod Speer) and Tyler (girlfriend Cheyanne Kuhlmann); Mark (Trina) Hamilton with Kelcie (husband Jordan McBride and son Mateo), Kaleb, Brent, Brady (girlfriend Hailey Harris), Josh, and Kendall all of Kearney. I know on occasion, the sons-in-law affectionately called me the 'monster-in-law,' but someone had to keep them in line. We spent much of our time enjoying our grandchildren's many sporting events and musical performances. I think we even managed to turn most of the family members into devoted Royals fans through some pretty special family vacations.

All in all, it's been a great life on this earth. Larry and I traveled to Italy, Spain, Hong Kong, Japan, Hawaii, Greece, and many other amazing places. I took a ride in a hot air balloon and went white-water rafting down the Rio Grande with my family. But, in the end, my favorite place to be was at our lake house at Johnson Lake enjoying our family time and boat rides on "The Caroliner." I have raised a family, been a psychotherapist (helping others better their lives), and have lived a rewarding life. However, there is no place like home, so please don't be sad because that is where I am now.

God bless and keep you all safe until I see you again, Carol

# Cemetery Events

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**Kearney Cemetery DEC**

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE, 68847

**27**

**Visitation**

05:00PM - 07:00PM

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O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations  
4115 Ave N, Kearney, NE, US, 68847

**DEC**

**27**

**Vigil / Prayer Service**

07:00PM

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O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations  
4115 Ave N, Kearney, NE, US, 68847

**DEC**

**28**

**Mass of Christian Burial**

10:30AM

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St. James Catholic Church  
3801 Avenue A, Kearney, NE, US, 68847

# Comments

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“ Sasha Tess-Elizabeth Conrad lit a candle in memory of Carol J. Poland



**Sasha Tess-Elizabeth Conrad** - December 28, 2018 at 10:56 PM

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“ Larry and family, you are in our thoughts and prayers. I loved Carol's smile and the twinkle in her eyes. She always had a kind word to say. I will never forget her providing my husband and I with a delicious meal following my surgery. She took time to express that she cared even though she was going through difficult times herself. She will be sorely missed-Kathy and Jerry Weidner

**Kathy Weidner** - December 27, 2018 at 07:21 PM

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“ Love Carol's self penned obituary~ What a beautiful person she has been for so many!

Carol was the absolute best Guidance Counselor ~ she cared deeply for each student & worked very hard to help each and every one prepare for college with as much assistance as possible! During Carol's tenure, graduation guests from other towns were always amazed at the scholarships awarded to Sargent students. This was largely due to Carol's diligent efforts to truly guide and assist student's pursuit of success in further education.

When our two oldest daughters and niece were injured in a vehicle accident in 1995, Carol went immediately to work to help any way possible~ calling the hospitals & researching how she could help the girls best acclimate back into school~protecting them when they returned & being there for them to help them overcome the adversity of their injuries~ such a true warrior for girls & for education!!

As parents, we knew Carol was truly a trustworthy advocate within the school system~ who had our child's, and every child's best interest at heart, always.

The quality of her character and the depth of her compassion will be forever cherished.

Rest in peace, beautiful soul. May your strength & integrity live on in the family you love so dearly. They are very much in our prayers.

Sincerely, Sheri & JD Rickertsen

Sheri RICKERTSEN - December 27, 2018 at 01:43 PM

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“ Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Carol J. Poland.



December 27, 2018 at 01:30 PM

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“ Larry and family, you are all in my thoughts and prayers. George and I thought highly of Carol. I loved being with you and listening to all the stories of your days in Sargent. Stay involved in life and God Bless ya!

**Kathy Pierce** - December 27, 2018 at 12:50 PM

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“ The Tvrdik Family: Lonnie, Mitzi, Allison, Randy purchased the Sweet Tenderness for the family of Carol J. Poland.



**The Tvrdik Family: Lonnie, Mitzi, Allison, Randy** - December 27, 2018 at 12:16 PM

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“ Simply Happy Kalanchoe Plant was purchased for the family of Carol J. Poland.



December 26, 2018 at 05:39 PM

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“ What a beautiful obituary Carol wrote, I can tell she was such a special lady! I especially love the memory she shared of Mt. Rushmore! Our thoughts and prayers to you all.

Carlos, Jillian, and Charline

**Charline Robinson** - December 26, 2018 at 12:43 PM

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“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Carol J. Poland.



December 26, 2018 at 12:34 PM

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“ Thinking and praying for my dear friends, the Poland sisters and family. What a wonderful obituary your mother wrote...and thank you Carol for sharing your lake house for a weekend every summer....so many memories and friendship were created there. Sending my prayers and condolences to you all.

**Kimberly McConnell** - December 25, 2018 at 07:52 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of Carol's passing. We were in high school at the same time! She was a fabulous volleyball player! May she Rest In Peace!



**Gloria Troxel James** - December 25, 2018 at 12:40 AM

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“ Thank you for always being good friends to my father Vernon Erikson. Accept our sincere sympathy regarding your loss of Carol. The family always enjoyed her.  
Roxann Erikson and family

**Rocann Erikson** - December 24, 2018 at 07:41 PM