



Berdene A. Heckman

March 19, 1916 - August 10, 2016

Berdene Heckman, 100
Kearney resident

Berdene A. Heckman, 100, of Kearney died Wednesday, August 10, 2016 at Mother Hull Home in Kearney. Funeral services will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, August 15, 2016 at the Kearney First United Methodist Church. The Rev. Melody Adams will officiate. Burial will be 3:00 p.m. at the Beaver Crossing Cemetery in Beaver Crossing, NE. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church.

The family prefers memorials to the Kearney First United Methodist Church. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

She was born March 3, 1916 to Norman and Alvina (Suellwold) Risenbaw on the family farm near Milford, NE. Shortly afterward the family moved to their permanent residence, a farm just south of Beaver Crossing, NE. Berdene grew up there graduating from Beaver Crossing High School. After graduation she taught elementary school in a one room country school while attending the University of Nebraska during the summer months.

She married Elmer Heckman on August 10, 1941. They were married for 63

years. Elmer and Berdene eventually started their family and moved to Kearney in 1956. There they owned and operated a motel and later they both went to work at Baldwin's Manufacturing.

Berdene has been an active member of the First United Methodist Church in Kearney for 60 years. She regularly worked out at the local YMCA well into her 90s.

Berdene's family remembers her as an extraordinary cook. Her family and friends remember her as an exceptional extrovert who loved people and went out of her way to connect with anyone she happened to meet. She was a favorite of all her nieces and nephews and will be remembered long by all who were privileged to know her.

She is survived by her daughter Carole Brown and husband James of Hudson, WI; son Stephen Heckman and wife Jyostna of Fairbanks, AK; grandchildren, Christopher Brown and wife Shawna, Stefanie McAfee and husband Andy, Daniel Heckman and Andrew Heckman; and many nieces, nephews and dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two infant sisters, husband Elmer Heckman, her siblings and their spouses Viola and Ervin Grossman, Arthur and Norma Ricenbaw, Florence and Grover Amos, Jim and Dorothy Ricenbaw; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law Merlin and Gladys Heckman, Dorothea Heckman, Esther and Les Miller, Melvin and Nora Heckman and Louise and Paul Engel.

Cemetery Details

Beaver Crossing Cemetery

Beaver Crossing, NE

Previous Events

Funeral Service

AUG **15**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *Berdene A. Heckman*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *I first met Berdene through physical therapy where I am the receptionist. She struck me as a very kind and thoughtful person. We had lots of good conversations while she was waiting for her therapy. Thoughts and prayers are with you. Mary at Physical Therapy Professional Services.*

Mary Vest - August 15, 2016 at 01:08 PM



“ *Carole I was sorry to hear about your mothers death. I remember good times visiting with your mother when we were in high school. Yes it has been a long time since we have talked. My name was Carolyn Laue and now Fjell. I live in Omaha. Many memories will help get you through this sad time.*

Carolyn Laue Fjell - August 13, 2016 at 05:13 PM



Hello Carolyn and thank you so much for your kind words. I remember you so well. You were very nice to me and I wasn't very nice to anyone. I would love to hear from you, all about your life. My e-mail is jbc9168@sbcglobal.net Mom did remember you, she talked about you recently and I didn't really know she knew you.

carole brown - August 17, 2016 at 02:41 PM

RH

“ *Berdene and Elmer were blessings for so many. Berdene's heart and faith were a great joy for me to know when I served as the Associate Pastor at Kearney First UMC (1998-2005).*

Ron Harris - August 13, 2016 at 08:28 AM



“ *We remember Berdene and Elmer well. Berdeen and Berdene conversed about their names being a bit unusual and also spelled differently. I remember Berdene and Elmer as very gracious people and that in our days there (1991-2002) they only missed worship when they were visiting family. I also remember that Elmer missed a step in someone's home on one of those visits and ended up on crutches. 100 years is a lot of memories and Berdene lived all that with grace. Our condolences.*

Ron and Berdeen Roemmich

Ron Roemmich - August 12, 2016 at 11:35 AM

BD

“ *I remember both of them so well. So regular in church and her smile always helped make your day. To use a cliché "A neat lady."*
Bill Doran

Bill Doran - August 12, 2016 at 10:34 AM

MH

“ *Elmer and Berdene opened their home on Sundays for dinner after church to some college girls. Monica 'Scott' Harvey*

monica harvey - August 12, 2016 at 03:21 AM