



Carolyn A. Gard

April 28, 1938 - July 15, 2019

Carolyn A. Gard, 81
Kearney resident

Carolyn Ann Gard, 81, of Kearney entered the gates of heaven Monday, July 15, 2019, at Good Samaritan Hospital, surrounded by family. Graveside services will be held 10:30 am Saturday, August 3, 2019 at the Riverside Cemetery in Gibbon. The Rev. Michael Evans will officiate.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Carolyn was born April 28th, 1938, on the Blanchard family farm southeast of Gibbon to Oliver and Virginia Blanchard. At age of 9 mo., Aunt Rose and Uncle Howard Ferguson lovingly took her in their home to share their lives. She attended Gibbon and Kearney educational systems and proudly received her GED from Kearney State College. She graduated from Queen Ann Beauty School and went on to own and operate the Silver Lady Beauty Salon for 10-years, which was built by the hands of her husband and boys. On March 5, 1954, she married the love of her life James Vern Gard and raised four children: David, Randy, Rusty, and Rebecca, which she states was her proudest achievement.

Carolyn was a true humanitarian, teaching Sunday school, bible school, served as Cub Scout leader, instructor for den mothers for scout council, enjoyed fund raising, served as community council president, craft fair organizer and a member of her favorite club; the Pioneer Club Extension Club, due to the wonderful ladies who served as fellow members. She was in sales for five years until retirement, but her true passion was cooking for others. She was the head cook for two restaurants for five years and her motto was "loved to cook and bake, the more people and food the better, the kitchen was always open to one and all." She was the caregiver to anyone that needed help.

She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, then Faith United Methodist Church.

She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, friend, and lover of all animals. Her dog Daisy was a very special girl and gardener assistant. She loved to bird watch, tend to Kirby Legg's cows and calves, raise exotic chickens, decorate, work in her yard, grow flowers and listen to classical music. Her husband Jim always said "It's not music if there's no banjo!"

Carolyn loved her family and always put them first. She was a dynamic woman who was respected, admired and loved. She was beautiful, caring with her advice, strong with her opinions, ambitious about life, generous with her time, supportive of dreams, tolerant of mistakes, empathetic of misfortunes, but most of all, she faithfully loved her husband for 57 years and successfully nurtured and raised four successful children with grace and ease.

Survivors include her sons, David Gard and his partner Lorrie Foster, of Gibbon; Randy Gard and his wife Vicki, of Grand Island, Rusty Gard and his wife Decca of Fort Worth, Texas, and her daughter Rebecca Burns and her husband Todd, of College Station, Texas; 12 grandchildren; 12 great grandchildren; and 3 great-great grandchildren; and sister Sandra Locca.

Carolyn was preceded in death by her husband Jim; her parents; sister Sharon James; infant sister Joyce Blanchard; brother Gerald Blanchard; aunt Rose Ferguson; grandparents Sadie and Sox Stonebarger; and a daughter-in-

law, Sharon Gard.

Memorials are suggested to the family for designation. Go to www.osrfh.com to submit online condolences.

Cemetery Details

Riverside Cemetery

45400 85th Road
Gibbon, NE

Previous Events

Graveside Service

AUG 3. 10:30 AM (CT)

Riverside Cemetery
45400 85th Road
Gibbon, NE

Tribute Wall



“ *Carolyn A. Gard*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Carolyn was my aunt and best friend at the same time. I always remember her jovial and fun-loving attitude. I never met a person so gracious and caring to all. She and her husband Jim were a great match. They had a batch of wonderful kids who have all grown up to be successful and of the same caliber as they were. You are missed dearly. God Bless your memory. Love Scott, James and Shea Sanders*

Scott Sanders - August 19, 2019 at 01:46 PM



“ *Carolyn was one of the strongest Loving women I've ever known. Once she made up her mind that's how it was going to be! She truly loved her friends and family. Always taking care of everyone else just by always giving encouraging words and baking for them. If there are card games in heaven she will be there playing now! Truly miss her.*

Lorrie Foster - July 30, 2019 at 09:23 AM



Thank you Lorrie for this. So very sweet and we love you!

Rebecca Burns - August 11, 2019 at 06:53 PM



“ *The last words I heard my grandma say to me were “take care”. I came to the hospital over my lunch hour. When it was time for me to go back to work I took her hand and told her I had to get back to work but I would be back a little after 5:00. She said “Alright honey. Take care”. This is what she always said to me when I left. It’s a very simple little phrase, two tiny words but they have very big meaning. To me, they mean take care of yourself. They mean drive carefully. Take care also reminds me to take care of others, the way she did her entire life. Take care of the world around you and take care of what you have (The house and yard at the farm were always immaculate.) That one little phrase grandma said makes me strive to “take care” on a daily basis. I only hope I can do a little bit of good in the world and I have her to thank for that.*

*Jasmine Beitler
Granddaughter*

Jasmine Beitler - July 24, 2019 at 05:21 PM

RB

*Jazz,
This was a fabulous tribute to her and you are spot on. She and I spoke about the challenges of being a woman and helped me better understand the balance between yourself and others. To her, "taking care" was all the things you mentioned and more. Take care means to be careful, be yourself, be kind, be helpful, be safe, be everything to everyone, be good...better yet, be GREAT, be useful, be memorable, be thorough and diligent, be honest, be faithful, be AMAZING, and above all else, be-lieve. She loved you so much and thank you for this.
Beckie*

Rebecca Burns - August 11, 2019 at 06:52 PM



“ *What a lady! What a cook!! What a big heart and big smile! I was so happy to have been part of Jim and Carolyn's lives...if even only briefly and off and on. I always had to make sure I did not stop unless I was hungry...as eating was a requirement...and oh my was the food awesome!! Jim gave me crap...and Carolyn made up for it with sweetness and a kind smile. I will miss her and the Red Suburban. RIP and tell Jim hi for me!! Mike McCann*

Mike McCann - July 19, 2019 at 06:17 PM

RB

Thank you so much for sharing this memory Mr. McCann!

Rebecca Burns - July 21, 2019 at 12:50 PM

RB

“ *3 files added to the album Memories*



Rebecca Burns - July 17, 2019 at 05:06 PM