



## Christine E. Hunnicutt

September 9, 1952 - November 22, 2016

Christine Hunnicutt, 64, of Kearney, died Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at her home.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 am Monday, November 28, 2016 at St. James Catholic Church. The Rev. Art Faesser will officiate. Interment will be in the Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be from 5-7 pm Sunday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation.

"There's a feeling I get when I look to the west and my spirit is crying for leaving."

A young lady, newly graduated and ready to embark on life out west, reflected on those lyrics in the Led Zeppelin song "Stairway to Heaven" and felt the pull to leave Pennsylvania and come to Nebraska, leading her to Kearney.

Chris did not immediately begin a career in teaching, but she served with care and compassion for the disabled as the Basic Skills Coordinator at Mid-Nebraska Mental Retardation Services in Kearney.

Within a short time, she was hired as a new teacher at Kearney Junior High

School where she built a foundation in education that would last 40 years. She eventually transferred to Kearney Senior High School and taught English, earning the admiration and respect of many students, their parents, and her colleagues.

Chris's students earned numerous awards under her guidance. In addition, she herself won numerous awards for her excellence in teaching. Chris was recognized with the prestigious honor of the Teachers Presidential Scholarship Award in Washington, D.C. She was also selected as the Teacher of the Year by the Kearney Public Schools Foundation. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln recognized Chris for having a positive influence on her students academically which prepared them for college. Chris was a member of and served as Vice President and President of Alpha Delta Kappa as well as head of the scholarship committee.

She encouraged her students to always look forward and consider the possibilities of their actions and outcomes. Her Academic Decathlon teams often took top honors at regional and state competitions.

Chris traveled with students and her husband to England where she showed them many places that were the roots of the British literature she taught and so loved.

The greatest travel moment was to Romania for the adoption of a daughter for whom she and her husband had long hoped. Having her daughter with her in school and her classes was a great privilege for both of them.

Remodeling and restoring old houses with her husband was a secondary passion which took them through a number of interesting projects that proved to be both fun and challenging. The greatest remodel resulted in their current home that she so loved. She also loved books and researched many

materials to fulfill her understanding of academics and the nature of life itself. She was firm in her religious beliefs and respected the fallibility of human life and redemption of it to its greatest potential.

Christine E. Hunnicutt was born to Frank and Adell Ernharth in McKees Rock, Pennsylvania, on Sept. 9, 1952. She graduated from Montour High School in McKees Rock in 1970, and earned her Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania in 1973. In 1976 she earned her Master's Degree in English also from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. On July 25, 1981, she married Gerald Hunnicutt.

After 35 years of marriage, she left behind her husband, Gerald Hunnicutt; daughter, Emma Hunnicutt; sisters Joyce Johnson of Rockville, Maryland, and Carol Panagoulis of Kissimmee, Florida; father-in-law, Glenn Hunnicutt and mother-in-law, Nadine Hunnicutt of Hastings, Nebraska; along with numerous brothers and sisters-in-law, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 233-3244

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV 27. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations  
4115 Ave N  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 234-3500  
info@osrfh.com  
<https://www.osrfh.com>

## Funeral Service

NOV 28. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ *Christine E. Hunnicutt*

---

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Mrs. Hunnicutt was by far the most impactful teacher I had in my school career . Her sharp intelligence, dry yet witty humor, and above all compassion for everyone who entered her classroom motivated me to not just academically succeed but also to be a decent person. I will forever remember and cherish my many impactful experiences with her within and outside of school, along with countless other students and individuals who were fortunate enough to have met her. The world would be a much more positive and thoughtful place if there were more educators like her.*

---

**Ryan Poggioli** - March 27, 2019 at 04:18 PM

KM

“ Mrs. Hunnicutt was and continues to be one of the guiding forces of my life. I still remember her AP English class -- discussing Beowulf, Shakespeare, Sir Gawain, the Canterbury Tales. Academic Decathlon and China. Classic comments where she compared Nicolas Sparks to a McDonalds hamburger and Faulkner to a tenderloin steak. She always let us write funny stuff on the board before class! And on the last day of class -- we were seniors -- she read us a poem and cried. She really cared for us. She knew each and every one of us.

Once I accidentally said a profanity in her classroom and she handled it with grace, telling me to be quiet and choosing not to send me to the office. I think about it every now and then. It's still embarrassing! But as an adult I appreciate the extent of her grace and how she always knew the right way to handle her students.

LORD she taught a love of Literature. You could feel the love emanate from her. She seeded a part of herself in each and every one of us. What a beautiful soul.

---

**Katie McGinnis** - December 06, 2016 at 01:12 AM

KE

“ Jerry so sorry for your loss ,you and Emma are in my prayers. I have a picture of all my sisters taken at your wedding. Every time I look at it I think of you and Chris .

---

**Kathy Eley** - November 28, 2016 at 07:11 PM

SF

“ I had Ms. Hunnicutt in Jr. High. She was sure a stickler when it came to language use and always pushed us to broaden our vocabulary.....Enjoyed her dry humor as well. May she rest in peace. My condolences and prayers for her husband and daughter.

---

**Susie Frerichs** - November 27, 2016 at 02:38 PM

JJ

“ Chris was my supervising teacher when I student taught at Kearney High School back in 1989. With her high, yet reachable expectations, a touch of humor and tough love, I could see that Chris made a difference in her students' lives. I treasure the experiences I had while shadowing her as my mentor that semester. I also credit her with modeling how to run a tight ship while establishing positive relationship with students. I share in your loss. May God comfort you as you mourn, and bless you with the recollection of fond memories of the time you shared with Chris.  
Sincerely,  
Julie E. Johnson  
Holdrege, NE

---

**Julie Johnson** - November 27, 2016 at 02:08 PM

NF

“ My heart goes out to her family and all those who were inspired by her.

---

**Nicole Freburg-Hoffmeister** - November 27, 2016 at 11:18 AM

JR

“ Chris was an amazing woman. She was very thoughtful and intelligent. She knew exactly how to phrase a question to really make students think and process. She me feel as though I always needed to strive to do more but at the same time instilled great confidence. Her love of literature was only surpassed by her love of her students. I'm so very thankful for her impact on my life.

---

**Jennifer Chapel (formerly Rasmussen)** - November 26, 2016 at 11:15 PM

BR

“*Mrs. Hunnicutt was my high school Academic Decathlon teacher. She taught us how to expand our minds and become renaissance women and men. She helped me strengthen my love of learning, caring for others, and collaborative learning. I learned so much with Mrs. Hunnicutt and now get to share what I learned with my own students. She was one of my favorite teachers and an inspiration for my own career as a teacher. Thank you Mrs. Hunnicutt.*

---

**Brianna** - November 26, 2016 at 11:03 PM

YF

“*Yin, Neil, and the Chen Family purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Christine E. Hunnicutt.*



---

**Yin, Neil, and the Chen Family** - November 26, 2016 at 09:51 PM

MB

“*I have always said that Mrs. Hunnicutt was my favorite teacher. She challenged me in so many ways, but also gave me so much confidence and deepened my love of literature and writing. She had a way of connecting with students while still holding us to high expectations. I will never forget how she complimented me on my AP English paper. It was so meaningful to me. I am so saddened to hear of her passing and want to express my sincere sympathy. I will always think of her fondly.*

---

**Megan (Anderson) Blazek** - November 26, 2016 at 08:07 PM



“ *Health Nut Basket was purchased for the family of Christine E. Hunnicutt.*



---

November 26, 2016 at 10:01 AM



“ *Chris was an inspiration to me when I began teaching at Kearney Jr. High many years ago. I have often thought of the times in the teacher's lounge when all of us laughed and joked around, Chris and I giggling in the corner. A very special soul. She will be missed.*  
*Kelli*

---

**Kelli Lawhead ( formerly Wattles )** - November 25, 2016 at 07:32 PM



“ *Mrs. Hunnicutt taught me a love of writing and literature that will last for the rest of my life. In her class, we learned to write sonnets, and I still write them. She is my hero.*

---

**Andrew Wright** - November 25, 2016 at 09:16 AM