



Erika E. Anderson

August 17, 1998 - March 27, 2016

Erika Anderson, 17
Kearney Resident

Erika E. Anderson, 17, of Kearney died Friday, March 25th, 2016. A Celebration of Life will be 10:30 a.m. Friday, April 1st, at the First Lutheran Church, 3315 Avenue G in Kearney. The Rev. John Gosswein will officiate. Interment will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., Thursday, March 31st at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home. Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Erika Elizabeth Anderson was born August 17th, 1998 in Kearney, Nebraska to Ron and Elaine (Schmeits) Anderson. Erika was baptized October 10, 1998 and confirmed October 28, 2012 in Christ at the Family of Christ Lutheran Church. Erika was a senior at Kearney High School where she developed herself as a talented artist and found a love for art history. She was a proud member of the National Honor Society and the Family of Christ Lutheran Church. She had recently been selected as a Junior Curator of the Museum of Nebraska Art. Together, she and her sister participated in the PhotoVoice Program, a program for self-expression through photography. Not only was she a true artist with many mediums, Erika also had a love for

cosmetics. She loved her palette of colors and many brushes which she used to sculpt her perfect eyebrows. She was a literary enthusiast passing on her love of books to her sister, Brooke. Erika loved talking to her brother, Brent, and enjoyed the bantering among his friends.

Erika worked at Fort Kearny and Best Western Motel where she enjoyed her coworkers and supervisor. While employed at Central Hydraulics she developed a privileged and treasured friendship with her boss, whom she also viewed as her mentor.

Erika was a gracious, self-less friend, sister, and daughter. Erika would always point out the good and beauty in others. Erika spent her free time with her many girl and guy friends cruising Kearney, jamming to music, hanging in the high school commons, going to movies and taking endless selfies. She was known to be the first to reach out to new students. Her friends remember her taking a strong position in classes, defending her beliefs.

Her family cherishes many memories of her childhood blonde hair, her little lazy eye, and her first pair of glasses. Her parents will miss the conversations they had with Erika about issues that were important to her. They enjoyed many family trips to both grandfathers' farms, camping in the back of the minivan and colorful sibling debates. She brought so much pride to her family through her excellent grades, her many awards, work ethic and strong beliefs. Those left to cherish her memory include her parents Ron and Elaine Anderson; brother, Brent Anderson; sister Brooke Anderson all of Kearney; grandmothers Irene Schmeits of Spalding, NE and Evelyn Anderson of Minden, NE; uncles and aunts, Dan Anderson of Minden, Ken and Susan Schmeits of Spalding, Barb and Tom Logan of Lincoln, Roger and Luci Schmeits of Omaha, Linda and Denny Bauer of Spalding, Jeanette and Grant Snyder of Odebolt, IA; as well as many cousins and friends.

Erika was preceded in death by her maternal Grandfather Joseph Schmeits, paternal Grandfather Robert Anderson and Uncle Daniel Schmeits.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 31. 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

APR 1. 10:30 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church
3315 Ave G
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ *Erika E. Anderson*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *MK Smith lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



MK Smith - April 02, 2016 at 02:38 PM



“ *Again our thoughts are with you Ron and Elaine and family today as you celebrate the wonderful life of Erika. Wishing your God peace to guide you through this.*



Heather and Bernie Hascall - April 01, 2016 at 07:36 AM



“ *Megan Kuefner sent a virtual gift in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Megan Kuefner - March 31, 2016 at 09:06 PM

CT

“ *Deepest sympathy in your loss. It is a heart ache no parent should ever have to live through and endure. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Chrystal Afrank Tharnish*

Chrystal Afrank Tharnish - March 31, 2016 at 08:01 PM

 Shelly
Kennedy
Carroll

“ *Ron, Elaine, Brent, Brooke, family, and friends. Words seem inadequate in expressing our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in your loss of your beautiful and mulit talented daughter, sister, relative and friend. Erika obviously made a tremendous impact on the many people who had the opportunity to meet her. It is very evident by the enormous outpouring of love and support, that you will be able to lean on family and friends when you need a shoulder to cry on or simply someone to listen.*



There will be lots of questions, many will be left unanswered. In those times, may your faith and trust in our God provide you comfort.

Knowing that one day you will be reunited with Erika, until then, may her memories give you peace, love and joy as she rejoices in the glories of Heaven.

Dave & Shelly Carroll

Shelly Kennedy Carroll - March 31, 2016 at 03:29 PM

DD

“ *To the entire Anderson family I send my deepest condolences on the passing of Erika. May God help you through this difficult time. Sincerely, Dennis Deselms*

Dennis Deselms - March 31, 2016 at 02:33 PM

JO

“ Jackie Miller, Jessica Bergmann and the Lincoln Office purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Erika E. Anderson.



Jackie Miller, Jessica Bergmann and the Lincoln Office -
March 31, 2016 at 02:29 PM

RS

“ Ron and Elaine,

We are so very sorry to hear about your daughter, Erika. Our hugs, thoughts, and prayers are with you during this difficult time.

Jack & Robyn Sprunk

Robyn Sprunk - March 31, 2016 at 10:56 AM

TW

“ Elaine and family---So sorry to hear of your loss--my thoughts are with you in this difficult time.

Terry Wegner - March 31, 2016 at 10:08 AM

JV

“ Ron , Elaine & family.... May you find comfort in memories & strength in each other's love through this very difficult time. Our thoughts & prayers are with you all. May God's strength comfort you with His peace.

Jim & Marlys Voth

Jim & Marlys Voth - March 31, 2016 at 09:31 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Erika E. Anderson.*



March 31, 2016 at 06:49 AM



“ *Scott And Linda Fecht sent a virtual gift in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Scott and Linda Fecht - March 30, 2016 at 10:28 PM



All our love, thoughts and prayers!

Scott and Linda Fecht - March 30, 2016 at 10:29 PM



“ *Dear Elaine,
I was so sorry to hear of your loss. May God give you strength to get through this and in the days ahead. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

Dee Walton, Lexington DHHS

Dee Walton - March 30, 2016 at 08:36 PM

MB

“ *Ron and Elaine,*

Brian just shared the sad news of Erica's passing.

There are no words that I really can say to express my deepest sympathy in this difficult time. Though I have not seen Erica since she sat on my lap at breakfast at Dondi and Julie's, I do remember the glasses she had trouble keeping on at that early time of her life. Her picture now shows how much she had grown into such a beautiful young woman.

My heartfelt sorrow goes out to both of you and the rest of your family and my prayers and thoughts are with all of you.

God bless all of you.

Barney

Mark Bartholomew - March 30, 2016 at 08:23 PM



JT

“ *Elaine, my deepest condolences are with you, your family and all of Erika's friends. Although I didn't know your beautiful Erika, my heart is breaking for all of you. May you find peace and comfort in the days ahead.*

Jauni Kay Tracy

Jauni Kay Tracy - March 30, 2016 at 08:21 PM

MK

“ *Megan Kuefner lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Megan Kuefner - March 30, 2016 at 04:45 PM

SF

“ *Steve & Jill Fritson lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Steve & Jill Fritson - March 30, 2016 at 04:14 PM

ME

“ *Megan lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Megan - March 30, 2016 at 04:08 PM

RE

“ I did not know Erika, but as a nurse at RYH and mother of pre-teens, I want to offer my prayers and condolences to Erika's family. Your tribute to your daughter is beautiful. I am so sorry for your loss. It leaves us with the question of how can we prevent such tragedy and loss? I don't know that there is a "one-size" fits all answer. Know that our door is always open (RYH) and that there are many avenues of support in the community. This loss will both shake you and the community. There are no words that console, but know that your grief is real to us and you are not alone.

Rene - March 30, 2016 at 02:50 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Erika E. Anderson.



March 30, 2016 at 02:26 PM

BS

“ Elaine, Ron and family - My heart has been heavy this week after hearing about Erika's passing. You have drifted in and out of my thoughts and been in my daily prayers. I have wanted to reach out to you but know there is much to do right now and you have many loved ones surrounding you right now. Know that Natalie and I are here for you in the days ahead when you may need us. We have watched our children grow up and have so enjoyed our days working together, Elaine for what... 15 years at HHS. I am so sorry for your loss of your beautiful daughter. Love, comfort and prayers to you all.

Brenda Shultz

Brenda Shultz - March 30, 2016 at 02:17 PM



“ Garden Accent - *"Perhaps the stars..."* was purchased for the family of Erika E. Anderson.



March 30, 2016 at 01:24 PM



“ Mike, Norma, Nathan, Jennifer & Bailey lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson



Mike, Norma, Nathan, Jennifer & Bailey - March 30, 2016 at 01:15 PM



“ Rosie Kester lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson



Rosie Kester - March 30, 2016 at 08:32 AM



“ Elisa, Mark, Marisa, MaryAnne, and Zachary Stevens purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Erika E. Anderson.



Elisa, Mark, Marisa, MaryAnne, and Zachary Stevens - March 30, 2016 at 08:22 AM

MZ

“ *Mark, Elisa, Marisa, MaryAnne, and Zachary purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Erika E. Anderson.*



Mark, Elisa, Marisa, MaryAnne, and Zachary - March 30, 2016 at 07:59 AM

AW

“ *Amy Wolfe lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Amy Wolfe - March 30, 2016 at 05:37 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Erika E. Anderson.*



March 30, 2016 at 12:05 AM

MA

“ *We want to send our deepest sympathy to all of Erika Family and friend. May God give you all the strenght you need at this time and in the days to come. God Bless Mary & Mike Zacher (Bauer)*

Mary - March 29, 2016 at 09:28 PM

TS

“ *Tami & Laura Scamehorn lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Tami & Laura Scamehorn - March 29, 2016 at 09:07 PM

CH

“ *Cindy Hastings lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Cindy Hastings - March 29, 2016 at 08:03 PM

CH

“ *Cindy Hastings lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Cindy Hastings - March 29, 2016 at 07:36 PM

JR

“ *Elaine, Ron & family: I am so sorry for your loss; wish I could be there to give you big hugs.*



Judy Regelin - March 29, 2016 at 06:55 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Erika E. Anderson.*



March 29, 2016 at 06:00 PM



“ *Blaine And Ruth Stewart lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Blaine and Ruth Stewart - March 29, 2016 at 05:49 PM



“ *Ron, Elaine, and family my thoughts and prayers are with your family. I am so sorry for your loss. There are no words to describe your feelings now only great memories of the good times your daughter brought to your lives.*
Larry Niemeyer

Larry Niemeyer - March 29, 2016 at 03:04 PM



“ *Rick & Gwen (Schmeits) Kellen Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Erika E. Anderson.*



Rick & Gwen (Schmeits) Kellen Family - March 29, 2016 at 02:04 PM

MV

“ *Ron, Elaine and family please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. So very sorry for your loss.*

Megan Vasquez - March 29, 2016 at 01:09 PM

GK

“ *Gwen Kellen lit a candle in memory of Erika E. Anderson*



Gwen Kellen - March 29, 2016 at 01:05 PM

RK

“ *Ron Elaine, Brent, and family,*

Thoughts and prayers are with you at the difficult time. May you find comfort in the days to come.

Riley Kishkunas - March 29, 2016 at 01:04 PM

TS

“ *Our thoughts & prayers are with your whole family at this very sad time... Cherish your memories with this beautiful young lady... Take comfort in knowing you will all see her again someday while she is at peace waiting & watching over all of you...*



*Our deepest sympathy,
Tim & Teresa Schmeits & family*

Tim & Teresa Schmeits - March 29, 2016 at 09:35 AM

SK

“ Dear Elaine,
Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss...our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Sara Kadyrova and family

Sarvinoz Kadyrova - March 28, 2016 at 10:06 PM

MM

“ Even though we are not acquainted, my mom, Jeannie, lives in your neighborhood. My heart and prayers go out to you. I am so very sorry for your loss.

Marilyn & Steve Moseman - March 28, 2016 at 09:05 PM

CJ

“ Elaine, may God be with you and your family in the days and weeks to come.
Cindy Janulewicz

Cindy Janulewicz - March 28, 2016 at 08:01 PM

JK

“ I am so sorry for your loss as Erika was a very special young lady. It is my prayer that the Lord can comfort you during this time. I have fond memories of her freshman year helping as a student manager with the volleyball team at KHS and many other memories seeing her passing in the hallways with her friends. May God be with you.

- Jay Kuecker

Jay Kuecker - March 28, 2016 at 07:50 PM

MV

“ *Ron Elaine and family I am so sorry! My thoughts and prayers are with you now and in the he days to come.*



Mandi Vasquez - March 28, 2016 at 07:40 PM

DL

Elaine and family please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers and you work through your grief and these tough times.

Diana Luscher - March 29, 2016 at 09:21 AM

BS

Ron and Elaine Brent and Brooke family and friends of Ericka, Please accept our heartfelt sympathies hold strong in your faith at this very sad time. Know that you all are in our prayers and thoughts. We are so sorry its so hard to express with mere words how we are feeling for you all. Just know and believe you will see her again one day in Heaven.

Blaine and Ruth Stewart - March 29, 2016 at 05:45 PM

JH

Sending you prayers and condolences, and wishing your family peace at this difficult time.

Janet Henderson

Janet Henderson - March 30, 2016 at 11:24 AM

DS

My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Diana Steube

Diana Steube - March 30, 2016 at 06:18 PM

VC

Elaine and family. We just read Ericka's obituary in the Grand Island Independent. We were shocked and sadden by the news. Please accept our sincere sympathy. Your Daughter will always be alive in your precious memories of her! May the Good Lord hold you and your family in the palm of his hands during this difficult time.

Tom and Vickie Connelly

Vickie Connelly - March 31, 2016 at 09:08 AM

LM

*Elaine and Ron and family
My deepest sympathies. I remember meeting Erika at Amy's wedding and she was a beautiful girl with a loving spirit. She made everyone around her smile and I could tell how proud you were of her. You are in my prayers. Love, Liz Murphy*

Liz Murphy - March 31, 2016 at 01:14 PM

EP

*Ron and Elaine
Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family
Ron and Elaine Price*

Elaine Price - March 31, 2016 at 05:45 PM

KO

*To the Anderson Family,
I am so very sorry for your loss. It's impossible to fathom the grief you are dealing with. I hope memories of your wonderful daughter will give you comfort. Thoughts and prayers,*

Kathy Olsufka (from Buffalo Ridge Golf Course)

Kathryn Olsufka - March 31, 2016 at 07:40 PM

MS

Although I don't know you, I wanted to send my love and prayers to all of you. May God's peace and love surround you in this most difficult time.

MK Smith

MK Smith - April 02, 2016 at 02:36 PM