



Kay E. Wentz

August 25, 1937 - July 15, 2023

Kay Elizabeth (Walburn) Wentz, age 85, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, July 15, 2023.

Kay was born on August 25, 1937, to Willis and Della Walburn. She was the first born of four children. She grew up on a farm near Breckenridge, Michigan. In 1967 she married Orlin Wentz and lived in Shepherd, MI. She worked at the local K-mart until 1977. She moved to Arkansas and was employed at the K-mart in Fayetteville, Arkansas. In 1980 she moved to Oberlin, Kansas and became a foster parent. She and her husband, Orlin, were foster parents to 32 different boys and girls while working there. In 1989 she joined her husband and rode in a semi cross country for several years. In 1997 she moved to the Kearney area and worked as a plumber for one of her son's business. In 2003 she started working at the local Walmart and had different positions while there. She really enjoyed being a cashier where she was able to meet numerous people and talk with them. She retired in 2013 and briefly lived in Georgia. She also was active with the international students at UNK and was a host family for numerous students.

She is survived by her husband Orlin of Kearney. Daughters Sheila Nartker of Terre Haute, Indiana. Karla (Charlie) Ballengee of Rossville, Illinois. Paula (Dean) Cloyd of Camdenton, Missouri. Becky (Bret) Shepard of Melbourne, Florida. Sons Aaron (Kelly) Wentz of Riverdale. Keith (Dayla) Wentz of

Kearney. 25 grandchildren, 19 great grandchildren, and 6 great great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a son-in-law (Jim), a granddaughter (Shannon), and a grandson (Evan).

Funeral service will be 10:30 a.m Thursday, July 20, 2023 at the Central Nebraska Veterans Home chapel. Visitation will be 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Wednesday at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. Inurnment will be held at Fort McPherson National Cemetery at a later date.

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.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **19**. 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

JUL **20**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Central Nebraska Veteran's Home
4510 E. 56th Street
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall

DC

“ Darryl C. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kay E. Wentz.

Darryl C. - July 19, 2023 at 11:28 PM

SW

“ I was so sorry to find out that Kay passed away. She was a sweet lady and accepted me as family right from the start. We visited Kay & Orlin many years ago with my boys and then again in Kearney (just Clark & I). Kay had a lady's gathering at her church while there and I brought home many recipes. One in particular was a Nestle Crunch Bar recipe and I use it a lot. Kay & Orlin came to Michigan once to walk the Mackinac Bridge with us. They came to Michigan a lot for reunions and loved seeing them. It was sad that I couldn't get out to see them before Kay's passing. Clark couldn't travel well anymore. Clark & Kay had a thing with their age. Now they can be together and not age at all. I will be praying for all family & friends left behind and especially Orlin. These last few years was hard to know that Orlin had his own health issues and had to be separated from living with Kay. May you Rest in Peace, Kay

Sandy Wentz - July 18, 2023 at 09:34 AM

TA

“ I got to know Kay when employed at Walmart. She was an amazing woman with a big heart. I will always have my memories of her and her smile.

Tracy Albus-Tjarks - July 17, 2023 at 06:43 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kay E. Wentz.* ”



July 17, 2023 at 06:43 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kay E. Wentz.* ”



July 17, 2023 at 12:23 PM



“ *Kay was always positive and smiling whenever we saw her. She was a faithful woman of God and a true example of what a wife should be.* ”

Connie Rector - July 17, 2023 at 11:28 AM