



Linda J. Thomas

June 14, 1954 - June 25, 2025

Linda Thomas, 71 of Kearney passed away Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at her home in Kearney. Memorial services will be 11:00 a.m. Thursday, July 3, 2025 at Kearney First United Methodist Church in Kearney with Pastor Jo Ellen Axthelm officiating. Inurnment will follow at Kearney Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to Kearney First United Methodist Church. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Linda was born June 14, 1954 in Kearney, NE to Harold and Norma (Kreps) Teasley. Later in life, she was adopted by Paul and Alice Knecht. She graduated from Wood River High School in 1972. Linda married Gary Thomas on August 4, 1973 in Wood River, NE. The couple was blessed with three children, Jennifer, Brenton and Laura.

In her younger years Linda worked as a waitress at her parents' restaurants before relocating to 29 Palms, CA then later Santa Ana, CA on account of Gary's Marine Corps assignment. It was there that they started a family with the birth of Jennifer. They later returned to Kearney where Linda worked at Baldwin Filters in Quality Control. They welcomed Brenton, then Laura and stayed home to care for them while they were young. Linda worked as a para at Northeast, Glenwood and Sunrise Middle School. She worked for Hallmark,

Ruter's, and finally as an Orthodontic assistant at Prosocki's Orthodontic Clinic.

Linda coached softball for many years and led a team in Odyssey of the Mind. She always made it to her children's games, concerts, and competitions. Linda enjoyed iced tea, and drank at least a gallon a day. She loved to read, plant flowers, be near the water, and travel to National Parks. She found it her personal mission to find a really good watermelon. Linda also enjoyed cleaning, organizing, and decorating for Christmas. She loved the many dogs they had over the years, and carried that love to her fur grandbabies that wiggled in delight as soon as they set eyes on her when she came to visit. What she loved more than anything was her grandchildren Ella, Ava, and Grayson. Nothing made her happier than spending time with them and watching them grow.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Gary Thomas of Kearney; son Brenton Thomas of Omaha; daughter, Laura Marshall of Broken Bow, NE; grandchildren, Ella and Ava Marshall and Grayson Thomas; brother, Darwin Knecht of Wood River; and several extended family members and friends.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents; daughter, Jennifer Thomas; sisters, Barbara Alonzo and Charlene Weber; and her brother, Darrell Knecht.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

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

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church
4500 Linden Drive
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall



“ My deepest sympathy to Linda’s family. I enjoyed visiting with Linda. Laura and our exchange student Nadine played tennis together.

Cindi Saldivar - July 01, 2025 at 06:00 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Linda J. Thomas.



July 01, 2025 at 12:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Linda J. Thomas.

July 01, 2025 at 12:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Linda J. Thomas.



June 30, 2025 at 09:59 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Linda J. Thomas.

June 30, 2025 at 09:59 AM

CK

“ Linda will never be forgotten, I can feel she is still here with all of you, right along with Jennifer

Craig Knispel - June 29, 2025 at 11:06 PM

T(

“ I remember going to Grandma and Grandpa Knecht's and walking around the lake talking with Linda. I always loved when we got to see her!

Tracy Bordbar (Knecht) - June 29, 2025 at 06:23 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Linda J. Thomas.



June 29, 2025 at 06:20 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Linda J. Thomas.

June 29, 2025 at 06:20 PM

KG

“ I enjoyed visiting with Linda as we walked around (and around) the pool at the CHI Fitness Center. Condolences to Gary and the family.

Kim Gronewold - June 28, 2025 at 04:53 PM

LB

“ I enjoyed your Mother so much when I had Brenton and Laura in my classroom. She was always ready to help and she put her heart into whatever I asked of her. Please accept my sympathy. Lorie Berndt former Northeast teacher

Lorie Berndt - June 28, 2025 at 08:03 AM

K2

“ KHS Class of 2004 purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Linda J. Thomas.



KHS Class of 2004 - June 27, 2025 at 09:06 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Linda J. Thomas.



June 27, 2025 at 02:57 PM

DB

“ Marci and I always enjoyed our time together with Gary and Linda. She will be missed by everyone in our family. We're so thankful for her wit and wisdom! Linda was a rare gem.



David & Marcia Bliss - June 27, 2025 at 08:59 AM

SS

“ Gary and family, I am stunned and heartbroken for all of you. As a “cousin” we were very close for many of our teenage years and beyond. I remember that I was a bridesmaid and sang for your wedding. I came to visit when I lived in LA and you were stationed near San Diego. Jennifer was just a tiny baby. We talked and talked and didn’t stop until our voices were hoarse. Woke up the next morning and started all over again. I’ve thought of you both every January since Jennifer passed. remember when we were 18 we drove to Colorado to visit grandma Rosa. She thought we should see the aspens turning colors so we headed up the NARROW mountain roads. Rosa would be looking off to the trees and talking while we were gripping door handles and gasping, terrified we were going right over the edge of the road to meet them face to face! On our way back to Nebraska we took a wrong turn and ended up in Kansas with an overheated radiator. Had to stop to get it fixed so sat in a nearby coffee shop where the waitress plopped herself right down on one of our chairs for a visit! We had screaming fun after closing in the field behind the restaurant, riding on a tube in the snow, pulled by a tractor. Or tubing down the Platte from Odessa to Kearney. Well, almost Kearney. The water stopped and we had to make a call for a ride back to Kearney. We had so much fun and, well, got ourselves into a fair amount of trouble too! I’m so sad that we lost touch as we grew up, married, and moved away. I miss her. 💔



Stephanie Dlouhy Straatmann - June 26, 2025 at 11:59 PM