



## Loretta Blumer

September 30, 1917 - February 3, 2016

Loretta (Housel) Blumer, 98, of Kearney, died February 3, 2016 at Good Samaritan Society St. Luke's.

Memorial services will be at 10:30 am Saturday, April 23, 2016 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home. The Reverend Kenton Birtell will officiate. According to her wishes Loretta was cremated. Interment will be at Riverside National Cemetery in Riverside, CA.

Memorials are suggested to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Holdrege, NE, Good Samaritan Society St. Luke's in Kearney or the Hemet, CA Prince of Peace Church braille project. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com).

Loretta entered this world September 30, 1917 at the farm home of her parents, in Madison County near Lindsay, Nebraska. She was the fourth daughter and seventh child of Thomas and Emily (Severin) Panek. She grew up knowing the value of hard work along with her nine brothers and sisters as they helped with cultivating and harvesting crops, taking care of livestock and the family garden. She lived in an era when many children only attended school through the eighth grade, but her desire to learn continued into her adult life she completed credits through adult education and graduated with her GED the same year as her only daughter, Ruby. She also took classes at

the Lincoln Business School to improve her bookkeeping skills, while working for Hill Hatchery in Lincoln.

On June 20, 1938 Loretta was united in marriage to Eugene O. Housel. They made their home in Lincoln. During the 1950's Loretta became involved in the Postal Clerks Auxiliary, holding offices in the local group and later became State President of the Auxiliary. A highlight of this time was a trip to Washington D.C. to meet congressmen and National Officers in the postal union. She was an active volunteer in local political campaigns for several Nebraska governors and senators. After her husband retired they moved to Hemet, CA. While there, Loretta was a bookkeeper at Evans Tire for many years until she retirement. Mr. Housel preceded her in death in 1984. Loretta married Otto Blumer on June 11, 1984. Otto preceded her in death in 1995, at which time Loretta returned to Lincoln to be closer to family.

As her health declined she moved to Sterling House Assisted Living in Lincoln. In late 2000 she moved to Chrisoma West Assisted Living to be nearer her daughter. With her health declining further she was moved to Prairie View Gardens in Kearney. She was always commenting after each move, "This is the best place I have ever lived." The staff members often told her daughter what a pleasant person she was to be around and very cooperative. In 2008 she was moved to Good Samaritan Society St. Luke's in Kearney where she would remain.

Loretta is survived by her daughter, Ruby C. Wilke and husband Kermit D. of Wilcox, NE; grandchildren, Curtis R. Wilke and wife Mercedes (Bambi) of Kingwood, TX, Cynthia (Cyndy) E. Wieland and husband Myrl of Alda, NE and Robert E. Wilke and wife Ann C. of Lincoln; great grandchildren, James R. Scott, Tyler Marie Scott, Haley A. Wilke and Christian T. Wilke; step grandchildren, Nicole and Justin Cotton.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husbands, three sisters, five brothers, a granddaughter, Deborah M. Wilke and a step son, Eugene (Gene) H. Housel.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR **23**. 10:30 AM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations

4115 Ave N

Kearney, NE 68847

(308) 234-3500

[info@osrfh.com](mailto:info@osrfh.com)

<https://www.osrfh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *My Granny was the best one ever!!* ”



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**Cyndy and Myrl** - October 26, 2025 at 02:50 AM



“ *Loretta Blumer* ”

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January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM