



## Maribell Irwin

September 17, 1935 - October 3, 2023

With heart felt sorrow we would like to announce the passing of Sondra Maribell Irwin, a longtime resident of Odessa, Nebraska, at the age of 88. She was born September 17th, 1935, and passed away October 3rd, 2023, while being cared for by her children and their spouses, the wonderful staff at WEL-Life at Kearney, and the caring nurses and staff of Tabitha Home Health & Hospice Care.

Visitation will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. A memorial service for S. Maribell Irwin will be held on Thursday, October 12, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney. A light lunch will be served promptly after the memorial service followed by last words and burial at Kearney Cemetery next to her husband.

Memorials are suggested to Kearney Tackles Cancer. Condolences may be shared online at [www.osrfh.com](http://www.osrfh.com). Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Maribell was born in Lexington, Nebraska to a wonderful and loving family with many fond memories of living a farm life with her parents and seven siblings. She later moved to Kearney where she graduated from Longfellow High School in 1953. Following her graduation she moved to Omaha,

Nebraska where she graduated from Creighton College and worked for Peter Kiewit as a bookkeeper. She shared an apartment with four young women whose friendship has lasted throughout her lifetime. Many wonderful memories were made during those years which also resulted in her meeting and marrying her husband Tom Irwin while he was stationed at Offutt Air Force base. After the birth of their two sons, Mark and Michael, the couple moved to Stanton, Nebraska where their son Stanley was born. They later relocated back to Kearney to be closer to family and settled in Odessa, Nebraska where they lived when their daughter Susan was born. She made a life there, befriending many wonderful neighbors, and chose to remain in Odessa after the death of her husband Tom in 1985, for 53 years. She held several jobs in Kearney while ending her work career at Eaton Corporation where she befriended many of her coworkers retiring in 2000 after 24 years without missing a day of work. She enjoyed gardening, reading, spending time with her family, and bowling in her younger years.

Maribell is preceded in death by her husband Thomas Irwin; her parents Kenneth and Alvera Kirwan; her brothers Arnold Kirwan, Raymond Kirwan, and Myron Kirwan; her brother-in-law Neil Drew and sister-in-laws Dorothy, Donna, Jean, and Mary. She is survived by her brothers, Laroue Kirwan, Emil Kirwan (Virginia), David Kirwan, and her sister LaRae Drew; her sons, Mark (Carole) Irwin of Arizona, Mike (Lisa) Irwin of Kearney, Stan Irwin of Georgia; her daughter Susan (Mark) Gutierrez of Lexington; her grandchildren, Jacob, Megan, Cassandra, Jared, Katie, Leigh, Brandon, Justen, Shania and great grandchildren, Brayden, Sadie, and Blakely.

Our Mother was a very special person whose welcome smile, limitless kindness, loving soul, and spirited sense of humor made those that knew her fall in love with the kind of person we would all like to be. She was our example of how life can be if you treat people with respect and kindness, to be determined to stay the course, to be fair above favoritism, and the simple

principals of life that make it worth living. She showed us that a sense of humor and selflessness is not a weakness but the greatest of all strengths. We will miss you dearly as we wave goodbye from the front porch, and promise to carry on your legacy you have left in our hearts and souls. We love all of those that loved and cared for her and we wish Mom well on her next journey. Love You, Mom.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

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

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 11. 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

OCT 12. 10:30 AM (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>

# Tribute Wall



“ *O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Maribell Irwin*



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**O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations** - October 18, 2023 at 09:40 AM

KW

“ Aunt Maribell always made me smile. She had a way of just making you feel comfortable. Aunt Maribell just had that knack. I always left our visits smiling and feeling good. Here are just a couple of stories...that made me smile, I put them in writing, for her children. When visiting my Dad and warming coffee in the microwave, Dad asked if I put the cup in with the handle to the right. I said no ...why Dad? He said that he and Maribell figured out exactly where to place the cup in the microwave with the handle on the right, press timer for 1 minute only, and the cup will return to the same position. So it is easier for you to grab the cup. That just made me chuckle. I had never thought about placing my cup in the right position with the correct time, to get the cup to return to the best position to grab the handle. I enjoyed those little things that they shared. Dad loved his little sister and thought the world of her. They loved drinking coffee together.

Another time... my youngest daughter, Jocelyn, flew with me to Nebraska to visit my Dad. Then we drove to see Aunt Maribell as Dad loved traveling to visit his sister and extended family. Enjoying coffee at Maribell's kitchen table, we were commenting on Aunt Maribell's beautiful back yard flowers. She said they are pretty but the rabbits also enjoy them. I go out and talk to them and tell them they have a perfectly good field behind my house and to enjoy all that food. They don't need to eat my flowers. We all laughed and I asked her if she really talked to them. She replied, yes but, they don't always listen. We laughed and she went on to say when they don't listen...I shoot them. Jocelyn eyes opened up wide and she asked shoot them? Well, Dad and I chuckled being raised in the country and having hunted. Maribell says, yep...but with a BB gun. Jocelyn sighed with relief, oh just a BB gun. That good. So it doesn't kill them. Maribell without skipping a beat says, oh, yes it does kill them. The different facial expressions at the table were priceless.

😂😂👉 Maribell went on to say...I ALWAYS give them a warning. I sighed and just chuckled. I was raised in Nebraska and I think that explains it I went on to explain how we used to have rabbits feet for good luck. She was totally grossed out. That was just TOO much. Well Jocelyn did get over her shock and enjoyed Aunt Maribell 's

*hospitality and our visit as well. As Dad and I did. 😊💕*  
*We flew home and a week later, to my surprise...in the mailbox was a package for "Jocelyn" from Aunt Maribell. I couldn't wait for Jocelyn to get home from school to open the package. Jocelyn squealed when her gift fell out of the package and on to the counter...I bent over laughing. Guess what Jocelyn would not touch...but within minutes...by touching only the chain, Jocelyn clipped it on her school back pack. Yep! You guessed it. Her good luck charm, from a favorite Aunt Maribell.*  
*I will miss the jokes and laughter from Aunt Maribell.*  
*Love to all my cousins and family, Karen*

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**Karen Weiner** - October 11, 2023 at 11:45 AM

SG

*Such fun stories! Thank you for sharing! Love you guys*

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**Susan Gutierrez** - October 13, 2023 at 12:28 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maribell Irwin.*



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October 11, 2023 at 10:50 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Maribell Irwin.*



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October 11, 2023 at 08:52 AM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Maribell Irwin.



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October 10, 2023 at 09:52 AM



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

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October 10, 2023 at 09:52 AM



“ Susan and all of Maribell's family, my heart felt sympathy to each of you. Maribell was a dear HS classmate. There were 7 of us who wrote in a round robin letter since graduating in 1953. Recently when I knew reading and writing were difficult due to her eyesight I called for phone chat every two months or so. It was time for a phone visit so I was shocked and saddened to learn of her death. I was priveledged to have lunch with Maribell a year ago when I visited family in Kearney.  
Rest in peace dear friend. Phyllis (May) Roker Bird Island, MN

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**Phyllis Roker** - October 07, 2023 at 06:06 PM



We were talking about mom's round robin. May people have never heard of them! I loved that you were all able to stay in touch!

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**Susan Gutierrez** - October 13, 2023 at 12:29 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Maribell Irwin.*



October 07, 2023 at 01:37 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Maribell Irwin.*



October 07, 2023 at 11:34 AM



“ *When Tom married your mom, He brought her to Michigan to meet the family. She was so warm and friendly she was an instant hit with all of us. One day she was in the kitchen and Tom in the living room. He called her in and she came running and jumped into his arms. I laughed so hard and a memory I have never forgotten. She was just so cute! We, who have had the pleasure of being part of her Life was touched by her, sweet and kind heart...  
Aunt Sandra*

**Sandra Duchon ( sister in-law** - October 07, 2023 at 10:02 AM



*Love that story!*

**Karen Weiner** - October 11, 2023 at 12:24 PM

SG

*Such wonderful memories of my parents! I am sure they are dancing in heaven! Love you!*

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**Susan Gutierrez** - October 13, 2023 at 12:30 PM