



## Mary Lawson

November 10, 1940 - December 16, 2012

Mary Ann Lawson, 72 of Kearney, died Sunday December 16, 2012 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be 10 AM, Wednesday at St. James Catholic Church in Kearney. The Rev. Joseph Hannappel will officiate. Interment will be 2:00 PM at Ft. McPherson National Cemetery near Maxwell. A family reception will be 6-7pm Tuesday at the church with a Rosary at 7PM. In lieu of flowers, the family asks donations be made to The Nebraska Medical Center (Oncology Dept.). [www.nebraskamed.com/how-you-can-help](http://www.nebraskamed.com/how-you-can-help). On-line condolences may be shared at [osrfh.com](http://osrfh.com). O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney is in charge of arrangements. Mary Ann was born on November 10, 1940 in Loup City, Nebraska to Leon and Rose Kociemba. She grew up in Ogallala, Nebraska and began her career immediately after high school working at Rexall Drug headquarters in Hollywood, CA. After moving to Colorado, she married L. Gayle Lawson on June 5, 1965, and their three children were born in Denver. The family moved to Kearney in 1978. At the age of 42, she pursued her long-time dream of getting a college degree and, while working at UNK, she obtained both her bachelor's and master's degrees by 1992. As the Director of Business Internships, until she retired in July 2011, she arranged for, monitored, and helped many students obtain real-world work experience through internships in Nebraska and abroad. She touched many more lives through her volunteer work with the Kearney Community Theater, the Central Mediation Center, Leadership Kearney, Golden Torch Society, UNK Alumni

Association (Board Member), Kearney Chamber of Commerce (Member), and Lambda Pi Eta (Honorary Member). She was, in turn, touched by the many warm wishes, thoughts, and prayers offered by many in the community as she battled pancreatic cancer. She is survived by her husband Gayle; daughter Andrea McMurtry and her husband, Tom, of Kansas City; son Matthew and his wife Carol, of Ladera Ranch, California; son Chad and fiancé Carrie Kishline of Vashon, Washington; five grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; sisters Nancy Seaman and Ellen Rae Werner; brothers Roy Kociemba and Tom Kociemba; six nieces; one nephew; and 10 great-nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Lawson*

January 28, 2023 at 08:01 AM



“ *Gayle - I am so sorry to hear about Mary Ann's death. You are in my thoughts and prayers.*

**Dianne Keiter** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM



“ *Gayle, Andrea, Matt, and Chad, I was so sorry to hear about Mary Ann's passing. You are all in my prayers during this difficult time. Mary Ann was a lovely woman and touched many lives.*

**Becky Hausmann** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM



“ *I was shocked and saddened to read about Mary Ann. I am so sorry for your loss. Mary Ann was a wonderful woman who always had a smile on her face. I always remember both her and Gayle for the love and joy they brought to our Kearney Catholic family. Please know that I will be praying for peace and comfort for you, Matt, Chad, Andrea, and Gayle.*

**Katie (Hause) Lewandowski** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM



“ *Gayle & Family, I am sorry to hear of Mary Ann's passing. I worked with her at UNK and always enjoyed her smile and laughter. I hope your memories will carry you through this time of sorrow.*

**Donna Ough-Murray** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

KD

“ Well what an outstanding write up on my sweet Aunt Mary Man as I would always call her since I was little. I could never get her name right. I was always Kissy to her. Well heaven just recieved another Angel. After reading how outstanding of human being she is it makes you want to do better yourself. She had the midus touch with people she touched. You truly will be missed my heart is broken but I'm so happy that you will keep a spot warm for me one day when we reunite. We can share the prayer shawl. I love you go rest in peace.

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**Kristy Werner Morton (God Daughter)** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

TB

“ Gayle just want you to know I have been thinking of you and your children Cherish all your memories of Mary Ann she was a special lady.  
Prayers for you all

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**Tammy Bossom** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

MR

“ We have lost a beautiful woman and wonderful person. She will live on through all of the great memories that will bring us the smile that Mary Ann would have wanted. You will be missed!

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**Mary Rittenhouse** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DN

“ Gayle and Family: So sorry for your loss. Mary Ann was a tremendous colleague and even better friend. We will all miss her terribly. Please let me know what you need, Gayle. Thinking of you all.

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**Dusty Newton** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

MZ

“ Gayle & family: We are so sorry to learn of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Mike & Judy Zapp** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

TF

“ Ande, I am so sorry for the loss of your beloved mother. I am praying for you and your family during this difficult time. God bless you.

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**Trish Farris** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

RS

“ Ande: Just wanted to let you know that you and your family are in my prayers. I pray that the Lord Jesus brings you and your family the comfort that you need at this difficult time.

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**Rene Slupski** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

FC

“ My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May the Lord fill your hearts with the strength needed to get through this time.

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**Felicia Courtney** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

ER

“ Mary Ann, You are my HERO. You did everything right.....maybe that is why God wanted you on his team in heaven. Hope they wear red. Thank You for being the BEST sister ever.All my love and prayers to Gayle, Matt,Andrea Sue, & Chad. You grew up with the BEST, Love and prayers, Marv & Ellen

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**Ellen Rae** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

EC

“ We are deeply sorry for your loss. She was always a wonderful person and will be greatly missed. We will be thinking of you during this tough holiday time. God Bless you and your family.

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**Everyone at Central Eye Care** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

TF

“ Gayle and family: So sorry for your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are for you and your family during this time. Please let us know if you need anything.

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**The Fangmeyer Family** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

DL

“ Gayle I don't know what to say to you I know you are in a fog now I was don't hardly remember the funeral. I can tell you it gets better you never forget and you wouldn't want to some day I would like to hear the story I didn't even know she was sick. After every thing is over and you are home alone please call me and we can talk and maybe I can help you through with what I learned. Hospice kept in close contact with me and even came to the house and just gave me some pointers. I am sure your church will help you also. Please give me a call any time it helps to hear a friendly voice on the other line. I don't have your cell number only hers and I didn't want to call you on that number. I'm so sorry I can't be there for you but you will have a lot of family there with you. I've already started working and we are in training and if you miss that you are not in a position to keep working. Love to you and and the family and please call me anytime my cell is 816-507-2336....Donn

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**Donn Lawson** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

HL

“ *Mary Ann always enjoyed life. We always felt better after spending time with her.*

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**Harlan and Janet Lawson** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

RA

“ *Dear family of Mary Ann - May the love of God give you peace and the love of your family and friends give you comfort. Mary Ann's love for you all will give you strength and know that she is in Heaven preparing a place for you. God bless you.*

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**Richard and Pat (Havel) Aaron** - August 21, 2013 at 05:59 AM

JB

“ *Our condolences to the family. We knew Mary Ann years ago and are friends of her sister, Ellen Rae Werner and Marv Werner. We have fond memories of her. You are all in our prayers.*

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**Jim and Carolyn Brungardt** - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

GB

“ *Dear Gayle and family, We were shocked to learn of Marh Ann's passing. Weare so sorry. She was such a beautiful person and it was my honor to have gotten to know her through Gene. He of course has always had a special place in his heatrt for her. Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. Sending love and strength to you all.*

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**Gene and Barbara** - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

RP

“ *We were sorry to hear of Mary Ann's passing. We will remember her and you in our prayers.*

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**Robert and Nancy Polk** - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

GH

“ We will miss Mary Ann very much. She was such a joy to work with and such a very nice person.

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**Galen and Marilyn Hadley** - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

SH

“ To the family of Mary Ann, My thoughts and prayers are with you at this difficult time. Mary Ann was such a blessing to me at UNK. I will miss her ever cheerful attitude, smiling face, and caring ways. With sympathy for your loss, Suzanne Hayes

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**Suzanne Hayes** - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM

DC

“ Gayle, you and your children are in our thoughts and prayers.

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**Danny and Paty Covalt** - August 21, 2013 at 05:58 AM