



Ruby C. Wilke

July 19, 1939 - October 25, 2025

Ruby C. Wilke, 86 of Holdrege passed away Saturday, October 25, 2025 at Holdrege Memorial Homes in Holdrege, NE. Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m. Friday, October 31, 2025 at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Holdrege with Pastor Kenton Birtell officiating. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Inurnment will be held at a later date.

Ruby Carol Housel Wilke, a woman who wore many hats during her 86 years of life on earth.

She was born in Lincoln, Nebraska on July 19, 1939, to Loretta and Eugene Housel. Being raised pretty much as an only child, she did have a much older half-brother, Genie.

As both a child and an adult, Ruby had several very close friends that she enjoyed spending time with such as Phyllis, Betsy and Edee. As an adult, she and her MRS girls, Marge, Marian, Norma, Phyllis, Florence, and Donna shared many adventures together over the years.

Growing up in Lincoln, hanging out with friends is where the love of her life, Kermit Dean Wilke found her and later married her June 9, 1957.

During Ruby and Kermit's 68 years of marriage they were blessed with four children, Curtis, Deborah, Cynthia, and Robert. They enjoyed their lives

together working, learning, traveling, and exploring all that their world offered them.

Ruby's many hats included but not limited to wearing hats she would match up to Kermit's restored antique cars. Wearing them on many car tours that spanned across America.

Being a Proverbs 31 woman; wife, mother and grandmother, Ruby obtained a master's degree in Home Economics all the while she worked alongside Kermit being his assistant as a Farm Manager, farmer's wife, Extension agent, Census taker, working election polls, helping seniors file taxes, participating in various health studies, sewing quilts with church ladies, working at the church thrift store, teaching cooking and couponing classes at the community college.

She also was involved leading Cub Scouts, Campfire girls, and 4-H. When she wasn't busy outside of the home, she liked working crossword puzzles, quilting, sewing clothes, gardening, couponing, reading, and watching old movies.

Ruby enjoyed cooking and canning. Creating recipes of her own by using a recipe as an inspiration and changing it to make it healthier and tastier. Her family looked forward to when she made cinnamon rolls, apple butter, apple crisp, porcupine meatballs, pecan, strawberry and chocolate pies.

Ruby and Kermit snow bired for 23 years in their Bounder motorhome, in addition to all the other vacations and car tours with family and friends throughout the years. Their travels took them across the continental United States plus Hawaii, Alaska, Canada, Mexico and Germany.

While Ruby may not have liked olives of any kind, she did enjoy black licorice, cherry nut ice cream, dressing up, *Gone with the Wind*, her family and friends.

Ruby leaves behind her husband Kermit and their children, grandchildren, and

great grandchildren.

Curtis Wilke and wife Bambi, their children and grands: Daughter, Nicole, Son, Justin and wife Yesenia. Their children: Michael, Joshua, Alexa, Daniel, and David.

Cyndy Wieland and husband Myrl. Their children: Son, JR, wife Casie and their children, Payne, Mason, Layden and Kinleigh. Daughter, Tyler, her husband Anthony.

Robert, otherwise known as Bob Wilke and his wife Ann. Their children and spouses: Daughter, Haley husband Travis, and Son, Christian wife Arleigh.

Ruby will join her parents, Loretta, Eugene and Otto, parents by marriage, George and Vera, baby daughter Deborah, baby grandson Ryan and other family and friends in heaven.

WE LOVE YOU AND LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN!

Memorials are kindly suggested to Holdrege Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Cemetery Details

Wilcox Cemetery

Wilcox, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **31**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church
1419 East Ave
Holdrege, NE 68949-1325
(308) 995-2208

Funeral Service

OCT **31**. 11:00 PM (CT)

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Holdrege, NE 68949

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Ruby you raised a great & loving son, thank you & Kermit for such a gift!!! Thank so much glad your earthly pain is gone!!!

Brad Meredith - November 04, 2025 at 10:28 AM

DM

“ Only met Ruby and Kermit once for about a week at a car rally. They were a great couple and she did have a variety of hats plus unique period outfits which really suited her. Bless the family at this time, thanks for introducing her to me Kermit. Be strong my friend , from your friend in Manitoba Canada. Don and Holly Morrison

Don Morrison - October 30, 2025 at 12:25 PM

BL

“ Betty, Peggy, & Laura purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Ruby C. Wilke.



Betty, Peggy, & Laura - October 29, 2025 at 04:13 PM

CD

“ [The LORD] passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God." Exodus 34:6 is what I would have read to Ruby and the Residents from ODB @ CH's. It was a pleasure to know you as you tended to her regularly. Her picture is so sweet! I've seen members of the "Red Hat" society and now yellow. ;) May our LORD be ever so near you through this passing knowing Jesus will bring us back together through Him. Blessings.



Chaplain DeWane Dow - October 29, 2025 at 02:36 PM

DC

“ Mom, you were the BEST MOM EVER!!



Daughter - Cyndy - October 28, 2025 at 07:16 PM

KW

“ Always good to see Ruby & Kermit on their Antique Car ventures. They stayed with us in Cedarburg, WI a time or so and we went to others locations in WI along their route. Glad Ruby will be celebrated in grand manner!!!

Kay Wienke - October 28, 2025 at 02:56 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ruby C. Wilke.*



October 27, 2025 at 12:41 PM



“ *HobbyTown family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruby C. Wilke.*

HobbyTown family - October 27, 2025 at 12:41 PM