



Ruth "Irene" Thies

April 27, 1934 - April 7, 2026

Ruth "Irene" Thies, 91 of Shelton passed away Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at CHI Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney. A celebration of life will be held 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

She was born on April 27, 1934, at home in Crab Orchard, Nebraska, to Glenn and Maryetta (Sovereign) Shew. Irene attended school in Tecumseh, Nebraska, and following her graduation, began working for the telephone company. She was united in marriage to Richard Thies, and together they built a family through the adoption of their three children: Wendee, David, and Dana. The family later moved to Kearney, Nebraska, where Irene continued her work with the telephone company while also caring for children through her in-home daycare.

After her marriage ended, Irene moved to Bellevue, Nebraska, where she formed many lasting friendships. She was active in the VFW community and worked in the deli at a local grocery store. Later, she returned to Tecumseh to be by her mother's side during her final days and remained there to support her father and sister as well.

While back in Tecumseh, Irene reconnected with classmates, friends, and family. She enjoyed social outings, including bus trips to the casinos with

friends. Irene had a gift for making people feel welcome—she loved baking cookies and often shared them with new neighbors as a warm introduction. She was also a very creative and thoughtful person who loved crafts.

In her later years, Irene moved back to Kearney to be closer to her family. She found great joy in attending her grandchildren's and great-grandchildren's school and sporting events. Irene lovingly hand-made 500 Christmas cards for servicemen and women, a reflection of her generous and caring spirit. Irene was a kind and selfless person who always put others before herself, and she took immense pride in her family.

She is survived by her sister, Maryaldene Busch of the Chicago area; her children, David Thies of Willis, Texas, Wendee Rush of Kearney, Nebraska, and Dana Chavez of Shelton, Nebraska; her grandchildren, Shali, Kassandra, Isaiah, Karter, Alexandria, Kameron, Desa Rae, and Keaton; as well as many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Irene will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who knew her.

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

APR 14. 2:00 PM - 3:00 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>

Tribute Wall

BJ

“ Irene was a wonderful and beautiful Lady, that brought joy to everyone she meet. She will be missed.

Becca Johnson - April 16 at 12:18 PM

BF

“ Brandy Egge&Cody,Keagan&Kalyn Killin Fam planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth "Irene" Thies.

Brandy Egge&Cody,Keagan&Kalyn Killin Fam - April 14 at 11:27 AM

BF

“ Brandy Egge&Cody,Keagan&Kalyn Killin Fam purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ruth "Irene" Thies.



Brandy Egge&Cody,Keagan&Kalyn Killin Fam - April 14 at 11:27 AM

WR

“ Wendee Rush lit a candle in memory of Ruth "Irene" Thies



Wendee Rush - April 14 at 02:33 AM

DC

“ *Dana Chavez lit a candle in memory of Ruth "Irene" Thies*



Dana Chavez - April 12 at 02:45 PM

FM

“ *Dana, Wendee, and families- my heart aches for you. May the Lord grant you strength and peace in this difficult time. Fran Murr*



Fran Murr - April 11 at 06:33 PM