



Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas

November 20, 1954 - January 26, 2026

In Loving Memory of Annette Jo "Ann" Thomas

Today we say goodbye to Ann, releasing her into peace while holding tightly to the love, meticulous care and deep devotion she gave to so many. Ann was born Nov. 20, 1954, the second of three sisters. She graduated from Kearney High School and Kearney State College and married her college sweetheart, Dennis, in 1976. Together they built a life rooted in faith, family and showing up for one another.

At her core, Ann was a wife, a mother and a maker, and a meticulous one at that. She loved bringing beauty and order into the world with her hands, whether through sewing, quilting, scrapbooking or carefully archiving memories. Her attention to detail gave meaning to the ordinary. She found deep satisfaction in cleaning and organizing simply because it felt good when things were cared for. Creating with her hands was both her comfort and her joy.

Ann carried both softness and steel within her — nurturing at heart yet stronger than most — meeting life's challenges with grace, courage and determination.

She loved being a mom. Ann had two sons, Marc and Collin, and they were

her world. Her love for them was steady and enduring, expressed in countless quiet acts of support and presence. She was also tougher than nails, a true steel magnolia, or maybe a sunflower. Ann overcame ovarian cancer and lived as a survivor for many years, never letting it slow her down or define her.

Her dedication to family and friends was unwavering. Ann showed up for the big moments and the small ones because she wanted her love to feel dependable. She delighted in her grandchildren, Charlie, Joey and Vivian, and never missed a soccer game or dance performance if she could help it. A proud Cornhusker fan, she especially loved watching her grandkids in sports. She lit up around them, happily playing on the floor, jumping into rounds of Uno or Monopoly, or simply helping however was needed: chauffeuring, babysitting for an hour or two, or stepping in when life got busy. Her presence was practical, warm and constant.

Growing up, Ann's faith was central to her life, and it remained a guiding force through life's ups and downs. She often shared stories of her childhood: Sunday lunches after church with fried chicken or roast; learning craftiness and artistry from her mother; visiting her grandmother's house with its big flower garden; and playing card games with her dad and family, quite competitively. She remembered camping vacations in tents and sleeping bags, a yellow bike and later a yellow VW Beetle, and even painting her bedroom yellow. Though she once wished she were not so tall, she eventually came to embrace it. Yellow was her favorite color growing up. Later she loved coral and pink.

She was deeply shaped by her parents' devotion to family and by her own mother's ingenuity, which Ann carried forward in her own life. She remained close with her sisters, becoming even better friends as the years went on.

Ann cherished simple comforts: grilled cheese and tomato soup, red

Twizzlers, chocolate of any kind, hymns and Christmas carols, and romantic comedies she could watch again and again. “Downton Abbey” was one of her favorites; she admired Mary’s strength. She preferred lunch to dinner, loathed deciding what to cook and found joy in travel, believing it expanded her world.

Ann and her family shared many adventures together, traveling across the United States and Europe, marveling at both the Rocky Mountains and the Eiffel Tower. After Dennis passed in 2020, Ann carried his memory forward while also creating new experiences with her family, including trips to the Grand Canyon, Kauai, Florida and Colorado — continuing to build memories rooted in togetherness.

When asked about her proudest achievement, Ann’s answer was simple: her family. She often said she could not have asked for a better one. And we could not have asked for a better mother, grandmother, sister or friend.

Ann leaves behind a legacy of quiet strength, faith, devotion and care. She taught us that love looks like consistency, that beauty lives in careful details and that showing up matters. Her life was a testament to steady presence and deep pride in the people she loved.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Dennis; her father, Ellis, a dedicated World War II veteran; and her mother, Bertha, who taught her to sew and to embrace making things with love. She is survived by her sons, Marc (Kate) and Collin (Stephanie), and their families; her two sisters, Betty Scheetz and Janelle (Jack) Beatty and family; and a legacy of hand-stitched memories that will never fade.

Ann will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Memorial contributions in Ann's name may be made to Faith United Methodist Church, 1623 Central Avenue, Kearney NE 68847

Cemetery Details

Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn

21901 W. Maple Road
Omaha, NE 68022

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 1. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Reichmuth Funeral Home - Omaha / Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Rd.
P.O. Box 711
Elkhorn, NE 68022
402-289-2222
services@reichmuthfuneralhomes.com
<https://www.reichmuthfuneralhomes.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 2. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Andrew United Methodist Church
15050 W. Maple Rd.
Omaha, NE 68164

Graveside Service

FEB 2. 11:45 AM (CT)

Prospect Hill Cemetery of Elkhorn
21901 W. Maple Road
Omaha, NE 68022

A lunch reception will follow the graveside service at Reichmuth Funeral Home in Elkhorn

Tribute Wall



“ *Reichmuth Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas*



Reichmuth Funeral Home - February 01 at 12:50 PM

LS

“ *Love, The Whitefoots and The Schwabs purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*



Love, The Whitefoots and The Schwabs - January 31 at 06:02 PM

CC

“ *Cecilia C. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*



Cecilia C. - January 31 at 11:42 AM

TK

“ *Tim, Nita, Jada and Kelsy purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*



Tim, Nita, Jada and Kelsy - January 31 at 08:28 AM

KJ

“ *So many great memories. Conversations and laughter at Thursday night wine night for 8 years together.*

Karen Johnson - January 30 at 07:40 PM

KJ

“ *Karen and Glen Johnson purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*



Karen and Glen Johnson - January 30 at 01:56 PM

CG

“ *Chris Galardi purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*



Chris Galardi - January 30 at 05:59 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*



January 29 at 11:23 PM



“ *Andy & Rachael Stewardson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*

Andy & Rachael Stewardson - January 29 at 11:23 PM



“ *Ben & Sara Spanjer and family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*



Ben & Sara Spanjer and family - January 29 at 10:26 PM



“ *Ben & Sara Spanjer and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*

Ben & Sara Spanjer and family - January 29 at 10:26 PM

DC

“*Doug and Laura Clark purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*



Doug and Laura Clark - January 28 at 09:18 PM

JC

“*Jim and Jeanne Cadwallader purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*



Jim and Jeanne Cadwallader - January 28 at 07:55 PM

SF

“*Schmer Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.*



Schmer Family - January 28 at 06:50 PM

DC

“*We have so many good memories with Ann in Omaha and the wonderful brunches at her home! Diane and Rick Campbell*

Diane R Campbell - January 28 at 06:24 PM

JM

“ Jim and Annette Mahoney purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.



Jim and Annette Mahoney - January 28 at 05:43 PM

JM

“ Jim and Annette Mahoney planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Annette "Ann" Jo Thomas.

Jim and Annette Mahoney - January 28 at 05:43 PM