



Diana Jane Ford

October 15, 1936 - June 10, 2016

Jane was the third child of Nettie and Ray Bell. She was born in a small town in Kansas to a postmaster who had served in World War I and an English teacher who also taught piano. Jane was a wonderful piano player. Jane's sister Ann and brother Don were 10 and 8 years older than Jane and so she was raised much like an only child. She graduated from high school and went to The University of Kansas. While in school, she missed her boyfriend who was still in the small town farming with his father.

Jane left school after her Freshman year and went home to marry Jack Ford. They got married in 1956 and welcomed their first daughter, Kristin Louise in 1957. Kathleen Ann arrived soon after in 1958 and the family moved to western Kansas (Finney County) to farm. Jane worked hard feeding the hired men and growing a beautiful vegetable garden. The family was completely isolated in the middle of a cattle pasture, 30 miles from any town. It was a peaceful, hard-working time, and Jane became the organist at the Methodist Church in nearby Kalvesta, Kansas. In 1960, a third daughter, Kara Lynn was born, followed in 1962 by another daughter, Kelly Jane. Life with four under five was difficult at times, especially in a two-bedroom farm home. Jane began commuting an hour and a half each day to work for a doctor in Garden City, Kansas. In 1969, the family relocated to Kalvesta, Kansas, where Jane began teaching music at the local grade school. She loved giving piano lessons and leading the school music programs. In 1972, the family moved again to

Cimarron, Kansas. Jane had accepted a job at Trinity Hospital in Dodge City and was once again commuting. At the same time, she was getting her accreditation as a medical records technician (ART). Jane and Jack were divorced shortly after, and Jane began the job of raising four teenage girls. She was a good role model and taught her daughters by her strong example. She quickly rose through the ranks and became Director of Medical Records at the hospital in 1975. In 1978, Jane was contacted by the Kansas Hospital Association and relocated to Topeka, Kansas. Kristin had moved to Florida to begin her music career, Kathy was in college at Wichita State, and Kara was beginning school at Dodge City Community College. Kelly had two more years of high school and was the only daughter to move with Jane. Jane served as a Director of Hospital Compliance at the Kansas Hospital Association until her retirement in 2000.

After living in Topeka for 12 years, Jane met Russel Aulton. He wooed and dined her, even sent flowers, and the rest is history. Theirs was truly a love story with neither of them knowing that Jane would face a devastating diagnosis of Alzheimer's when she was 69. Russ quit his trucking job to become Jane's caretaker. In December of 2015, Russ moved Jane to Valley, Nebraska, to be closer to her girls and their families. For the past six months, the children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have been able to know Grandma Jane better and provide her with smiles and laughter. In return, she has taught us the love of family – that we come together and take care of each other.

We will miss her greatly, but know she is at peace and whole again.

Diana "Jane" Ford (nee Bell) died peacefully in Valley, Nebraska on June 10, 2016 at the age of 79.

Jane is survived by her loving partner of 28 years, Russel Aulton, children, Kristin Ford, Lincoln, Nebraska; Kathleen (Steve) Broniecki, Elkhorn, Nebraska; Kara (Clay) Phillips, Sidney, Nebraska; Kelly (Bob Weyant) Baker, Yutan, Nebraska; nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Jane was born on October 15, 1936 in Isabel, Kansas to Delano and Nettie (Thompson) Bell. She worked as Director of Medical Records at Dodge City Hospital until 1978 when she moved to Topeka to work for the Kansas Hospital Association. Jane retired in 2000 and enjoyed her friends and family. In 2015, Jane and Russ relocated from Topeka, Kansas to Valley, Nebraska to be closer to her daughters and their families.

The family celebrated Jane's life at private services on June 14. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Alzheimer's Association at <http://www.alzfdn.org/Donation-Page/donate-to-find-a-cure-for-alzheimers-disease.html>

Tribute Wall



“ *Diana Jane Ford*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *Dear girls, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your Mother. She was a sweet person. Lori spent lots of time with all of you when she and Kathi were in high school and thought so much of all of you. Blessing to all of you. My prayers are with you all.*
Sincerely,
Doris

Doris Phelps - June 27, 2016 at 10:32 PM



“ *Sorry to read of your loss.*
Remember the good times we had.
Peg

Peg Fugate - June 23, 2016 at 12:33 PM



“ *My condolences in the passing of your mother. Thinking of you St this difficult time.*

Norma (Clark) Immroth - June 16, 2016 at 10:35 PM

RP

“ Ron has such good memories of being one of the farm help guys your Mom cooked for, of watching all you girls grow up, and working with your Dad. Your Mom always had a laugh and fun way about her, even with Alzheimer's preying on her mind. We are so glad she lived closer to most of you so you could love on her in these last days. We are keeping all of you in our prayers for comfort and peace. Love, Ron and Judy

Ron and Judy Phipps - June 16, 2016 at 02:57 PM

SG

“ We are sorry for your loss, and wish you peace during this difficult time. May God bless you all.

Scott & Resea Gray - June 14, 2016 at 09:19 AM

LF

“ Jane had the most beautiful smile and the happy disposition to go along with it. I will never forget her contagious laugh. She gave me wise advice and guidance that I still remember. May she rest in peace. Condolences to her family.

Lynda Flanigan - June 13, 2016 at 09:59 PM

DW

“ Jan and I were saddened to learn of Janes passing. Jane was a respected colleague at KHA likes and respected by all. Her knowledge of medical records was a great asset to the association. Even though we haven't see Jane for quite some time Rachel was always there to give us an update. We send our prayers to the girls and Russ for this loss.

Don and Jan Wilson - June 13, 2016 at 05:38 PM

PM

“ Dear Ford Family,

I am so sorry to hear of Jane's passing. I use to run around with her in the early 80's. We bowled together on a team at Highland Crest and then hit the Twenties. She was on special lady and I loved her so. I don't know how we lost track except she and I both found men. To share a funny story....it was her time to bowl and she was still in the bathroom. I went in there to check on her and she was lying on the floor trying to get her jeans zipped up. We started laughing so hard we about both peed out pants. I had to help her get zipped and then stand her up to go out to bowl. She was just so fun like that. I know she is up in heaven making everyone else have a great time laughing until they cry or pee their pants.

Patty Malloy-Krug - June 13, 2016 at 01:08 PM

TM

“ So sorry to hear of Janes' passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all. She was a great lady with a heart of gold! She could make you laugh when you thought there was no way!!! Her smile would brighten any room and her shoulder was always there for anyone who needed it!!! Your memories will keep her spirit alive!â¤ï¸

Talisa McClain - June 13, 2016 at 12:08 PM

RP

“ Girls, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. May you find peace knowing what a wonderful life you had with her. Hugs to all

Ronda Oyler Penn - June 11, 2016 at 10:00 PM