



Elaine Dorothy Blankenau

August 2, 1933 - May 31, 2024

ELAINE DOROTHY RUSKAMP BLANKENAU

Elaine Dorothy Ruskamp was born on August 2, 1933 in Cuming County, rural Dodge, NE. Her parents were Lorenz and Elizabeth (Oesselke) Ruskamp. She attended Sacred Heart Academy, Olean, NE and graduated as valedictorian from Howells High School in 1951.

Elaine was united in marriage to Anthony J. Blankenau in Sacred Heart Church, Olean, on February 26, 1957, by Reverend W. Klein. They lived in Dodge throughout their 60 years of marriage. Elaine was a member of St. Wenceslaus Parish, Altar Society, Christian Mothers Society, Parish Council member and sang in the funeral choir. She was a member of the Dodgers Club, John Rogers Memorial Library board, American Legion Auxiliary Post 122. She was a coordinator for the Red Cross Bloodmobiles collections in Dodge and served on the Dodge County Canvassing Board for elections, both for many years. After the children were grown, she worked at the Dodge Town Mart and then as a seamstress at Parkview Nursing Home in Dodge for 18 years. The job she loved best was being a Mom, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother!

Elaine was interested in genealogy and co-edited a Ruskamp Family History book and other family history scrap books. She loved to cook and bake. Other

hobbies included gardening, canning, crocheting, sewing, reading and working on the computer. In 2019 she moved to Elkhorn, NE to be nearer her children. She then joined St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Elkhorn.

She is survived by seven children:

Daughter, Judy (Bill) Mueller, Raymond, NE and daughter, Grace of Lincoln, NE

Son: Donald (Gail) Blankenau, Lincoln, NE and children, Alek (Callie), Dallas, TX, Philip (Rebecca), their daughter, Heidi, Boise, ID, and daughter, Lauren, Tacoma, WA.

Daughter: Mary Blankenau, Snowmass Village, CO and daughters, Mallory, San Luis Obispo, CA and Jaclyn, Minneapolis, MN

Son: Steve Blankenau, Albuquerque, NM and his daughter, Merritt, San Francisco, CA

Daughter: Theresa Blankenau, Littleton, CO

Son: Gerald (Butch) (Bridget,) and their daughters, Reese and Regan, Omaha, NE

Son: James (Jody) Blankenau and their sons, Hans and Christoph, Salt Lake City, UT

She is also survived by her sisters-in-law, Mary Ann Ruskamp, Britta Blankenau, Darlene Blankenau, Laurine Blankenau, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband of 60 years, Anthony, (March 2, 2017), infant sister Katherina, infant twin siblings, sister and brother-in-law, Catherine and Herman Franzluebbers, brother and sister-in-law Irvin and Ann Ruskamp, and brother, Norbert Ruskamp, brothers-in-law Dr. Richard Blankenau, Edmund Blankenau, Francis Blankenau, brother and sister-in-law, Bill and Rita Blankenau, Brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Herman and Alice Blankenau

Cemetery Details

Omaha National Cemetery

14250 Schram Road
Omaha, NE 68138

Previous Events

Visitation with family

JUN 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 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/>

Vigil service

JUN 7. 7:00 PM (CT)

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Mass of the Christian Burial

JUN 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Patrick's Catholic Church
20500 W. Maple Road
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Graveside Service

JUN 10. 10:00 AM (CT)

Omaha National Cemetery
14250 Schram Road
Omaha, NE 68138

Tribute Wall

LP

“ *My Sympathy to the family. Elaine was a classmate of my sister, Doris (Steffensmeier) Pruss, Doris has passed away but this is her sister, Leona Parr reaching out to Elaine’s family. Elaine was a beautiful friend. Quiet and always that sweet smile. I feel blessed to have known her. We all went to grade school at Olean. May she rest on peace.*

Leona Parr - June 14, 2024 at 10:04 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*



June 07, 2024 at 02:30 PM

SC

“ *Dear Mary and your daughters. Please accept our condolences for your loss. What a pleasure to learn more about your wonderful mother and all she meant to you. It was a life of purpose and importance. She will be remembered and missed. . Blessings, Dr. Steve and Peggy Cantrell.*

Steve and Peggy Cantrell - June 07, 2024 at 11:59 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.



June 07, 2024 at 11:42 AM



“ Matt/Tasha Mondero, Dan/Sheri Freeman purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.



Matt/Tasha Mondero, Dan/Sheri Freeman - June 07, 2024 at 08:03 AM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.



June 06, 2024 at 04:37 PM



“ Sorry for you loss. I enjoyed working with Elaine on our Ruskamp Family History Book. Our deepest sympathies. Henrietta Ruskamp and Family

MARY JO KAMPSCHNIEDER - June 06, 2024 at 03:36 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*



June 06, 2024 at 01:06 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*



June 06, 2024 at 11:04 AM



“ *Dan and Monica Blankenau planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*

Dan and Monica Blankenau - June 06, 2024 at 11:04 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*



June 06, 2024 at 10:38 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*



June 06, 2024 at 10:19 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*



June 05, 2024 at 07:00 PM



“ *Anthony and lynda planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*

Anthony and lynda - June 05, 2024 at 07:00 PM



“ *Bill, Angela, Isaac, Nolan, & Liam purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*



Bill, Angela, Isaac, Nolan, & Liam - June 05, 2024 at 10:38 AM

AB

“ Condolences to Aunt Elaine's wonderful family. I will always remember the warmth and grace she showed when our family descended, adding 7 more kids to her house. We always felt welcome and at home because of Aunt Elaine. The world lost a truly special family woman. - Annie Blankenau

Annie Blankenau - June 04, 2024 at 10:07 PM

BF

“ Betsy Marilley and family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.



Betsy Marilley and family - June 04, 2024 at 05:54 PM

KC

“ Mary, we are so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. We are thinking of you and your family! Jeff & Kathy Clark

Kathy Clark - June 04, 2024 at 02:38 PM

WZ

“ William and Lucy Zukoff purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.



William and Lucy Zukoff - June 03, 2024 at 07:26 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*



June 03, 2024 at 04:30 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*



June 03, 2024 at 12:58 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.*



June 03, 2024 at 09:52 AM



“ *Mary was so sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. My thought and prayers are with you and your family. Bill Zimmerman*

William Zimmerman - June 03, 2024 at 09:45 AM

PW

“ Our sincere condolences to the family of Elaine. We met her once in 2019 when we visited our family in Lincoln.

Petra (Adelheid's daughter) & Jürgen Wullstein with Fabian, Philipp, Stephanie, Simon and Selina from Putzbrunn (near Munich), Germany

Petra Wullstein - June 03, 2024 at 04:41 AM

JF

“ Joan Brune and Family purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Elaine Dorothy Blankenau.



Joan Brune and Family - June 02, 2024 at 06:22 PM

JB

“ We were neighbors for many years. Our children spent many fun hours together, especially at the lake. She was a best friend and will be greatly missed. Joan Brune

joan brune - June 02, 2024 at 06:14 PM

BB

Thanks Joan. She cherished your friendship and we all are thankful for being neighbors with the Brune's. Thanks for your kind words and God bless you.

Butch Blankenau - June 03, 2024 at 12:27 AM

MM

“ *My sincere condolences to the family of this lovely lady. She was always a pleasant person with a smile on her face. She was dearly missed when she moved from the community because of her involvement in service to others.*

May she rest in peace.

Marietta Mandel

Marietta Mandel - June 02, 2024 at 01:55 PM