



Martina "Sue" Sue Polk

December 6, 1938 - January 16, 2025

A WHOLE LOT OF LIFE

One of the good things about growing up in a large extended family is that it seems like there are always new babies being born. There's another thing about growing up in a large extended family that at first doesn't seem as good, and yet it is very much part of it all – you go to a lot of funerals.

So now we gather to honor the life and death of Sue Polk, who died in Omaha on Jan. 16, 2025, at the age of 86.

Martina Sue Offenburger was born Dec. 6, 1938, the sixth of eight children of Herman and Anna Offenburger, in Shenandoah, Iowa. She had dozens of cousins. Eventually she had 16 nieces and nephews. A whole lot of life there.

At Shenandoah High School, she was an outstanding drummer in the marching band, editor of

the yearbook, and a lifeguard at the local swimming pool. "Sue was always just a joy to be around," said her SHS Class of 1956 classmate Dick Hunt, who became the longest-serving mayor in the community's history. On one of her last days, Sue was telling stories about her longtime friends, and of Hunt, she said, "He was a dandy!"

After her death, he reciprocated.

"Sometimes us athletes needed help dealing with some of our teachers, and yes, I'm talking about Miss Keenan," Hunt said. "Sue would be kind of a buffer for us guys when we'd be going into Miss Keenan's American government class. I'd always take a seat in the back of the room, and Miss Keenan would say, 'Dick, you might as well come on up here and take a chair in front, because you'll wind up here anyway.' Sue would smooth things over. Everybody liked Sue. And I never heard her say a bad word about, or not want to associate with, anybody in our class."

She went on to Creighton University in Omaha, where she met, fell in love with and married Quillie H. "Bud" Polk, a young airman from Savannah, Georgia, then stationed at Offutt Air Force Base.

His military career eventually had them stationed at a half-dozen bases in the U.S. and for a time

in Okinawa, before they re-entered civilian life and settled in Elkhorn, on the west edge of the Omaha metropolitan area. Bud worked for the Omaha World-Herald, then Hastings College's Foundation. Sue served as a secretary and personnel specialist for the Elkhorn Public Schools, and both were very active in service and activities at St. Patrick Catholic Church.

Bud died in 2018 at the age of 81.

Sue and Bud had four children – David Polk, now of Lexington, S.C.; Beth Ginger, of Omaha; Michael Polk, also of Omaha, and Christopher Polk, of Seattle. They've always been, and still are, as full of life as their parents always were.

There was a special reflection of that love of life that the Polks all shared, when Sue was in her final weeks at the Elk Ridge Village Assisted Living and Memory Care facility. Saturday, Dec. 7, 2024, a day after her birthday, 36 of us from the extended family gathered at Elk Ridge to celebrate with her.

Conversations over lunch were lively and loud. Then when it came time to sing "Happy Birthday" to Sue, our party was suddenly crashed by four "gingerbread people" wearing inflated costumes that made them 8 feet tall. In the costumes were Sue's grown kids –

now all
grandparents but hardly acting like it – who led the rest of us in singing.

When the costumes were abandoned and calm returned to the party room,
that's when a beautiful moment happened.

“Mom, congratulations, you are now 86 years old,” her oldest son David
began, speaking loud
enough so we could all hear. “That's a good long life, a whole lot of years.”

He paused.

“But I want to give you something more to think about,” he continued. “If you
take the four of us
who are your children and add up our ages, it comes to 245 years. And when
you think about it,
you Mom are directly responsible for our 245 years of life. And there's more.

“If you take our 245 years and add the lives of your 15 grandchildren and your
23 great- grandchildren, the total is 865 years of human life. And it all
happened because of you!”

A huge cheer and applause erupted in the party room.

That's how it is in large extended families – a whole lot of life and, of course,
the occasional
death.

We cry in happiness and cheer the new births.

We cry in sadness and pray when one of us dies.

And at our funerals, it never takes long before one of us will reflect on the person who has just passed, and then say something like Sue's youngest sister Chris Werner, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, recently said of Sue, "Wasn't she fun!"

Sue was preceded in death by her parents, husband Bud Polk, one sister and four brothers. She is survived by sons and daughters-in-law David and Lisa Polk of Lexington, S.C., Michael Polk and Liz McIlree of Omaha, and Christopher and Deena Polk of Seattle, daughter and son-in-law Beth and Teb Ginger of Omaha, 15 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren; a brother and sister-in-law Chuck Offenburger and Mary Riche of Des Moines, and sister and brother-in-law Chris and Karl Werner of Cedar Rapids.

A memorial mass will be held at 10:30am Friday, February 28, 2025, at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, Elkhorn. Visitation will be Thursday, Feb. 27 at Reichmuth Funeral Home, Elkhorn from 5-7 PM with a Wake service at 7 PM. Interment will take place at a later date at Mt. Calvary Cemetery, Elkhorn. Memorials may be made to St. Patrick's of Elkhorn.

Cemetery Details

Mt. Calvary Catholic Cemetery

Elkhorn, NE 68022

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 27. 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

FEB 27. 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/>

Memorial Mass

FEB **28**. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Martina "Sue" Sue Polk.*



February 27, 2025 at 11:35 AM



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martina "Sue" Sue Polk.*



February 27, 2025 at 09:54 AM



“ *Love, Jess, John, Parker and Margot purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Martina "Sue" Sue Polk.*



Love, Jess, John, Parker and Margot - February 27, 2025 at 01:01 AM



“ *Vincent W. purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Martina "Sue" Sue Polk.*



Vincent W. - February 26, 2025 at 03:27 PM

MC

“ Mrs. Sang - Redmond Family Dry Cleaners planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martina "Sue" Sue Polk.

Mrs. Sang - Redmond Family Dry Cleaners - February 26, 2025 at 12:55 AM

MC

“ Mrs. Sang - Redmond Family Dry Cleaners purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Martina "Sue" Sue Polk.



Mrs. Sang - Redmond Family Dry Cleaners - February 26, 2025 at 12:55 AM

AG

“ I am a parishioner of St. Patrick's Elkhorn and I had the privilege of taking communion to Sue at Elk Ridge. She was always very grateful, and told me every time that she appreciated receiving communion in person. She was witty, kind, and always made me smile. It was very evident to me that she had a close, personal relationship with Jesus, and had a faithful spirit. I will miss spending time with her on Sunday mornings.

Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

-Anna Galloway

Anna Galloway - February 25, 2025 at 03:32 PM

KH

“ Kurt and Debbie Hoskovec purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Martina "Sue" Sue Polk.



Kurt and Debbie Hoskovec - February 25, 2025 at 01:24 PM

FJ

“ Frankie, Susie and Jenny planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martina "Sue" Sue Polk.

Frankie, Susie and Jenny - February 21, 2025 at 02:22 PM

FJ

“ Frankie, Susie and Jenny purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Martina "Sue" Sue Polk.



Frankie, Susie and Jenny - February 21, 2025 at 02:22 PM

LS

“ We send our condolences to Sue's children and extended family. My husband and I spent time with Sue while visiting our Mother in Elk Ridge Village. We truly enjoyed her spunk and competitiveness during our bingo games. She was quite proud of the candy she had accumulated with her winnings and was always willing to share it because she made it very clear - we were not going to win - she would.

It was a joy to see and visit with Sue. We'll miss her.

May she rest in peace.

John & Lynne Sernett

Lynne Sernett - January 26, 2025 at 05:04 PM

JK

We have known Sue since the 60 when Bud and my husband were in classes at UNO. We used our wagon to go up to a neighborhood park and let our kids play in the park and have a picnic and the guys could have some quiet study time. Oh we have so much fun.. I miss my neighbor just down the street. She is enjoy her new life.

Judy and kenKline - February 26, 2025 at 07:01 PM

JC

My Grandma Sue Sue yes to give me ice cream every time I visited

Jocelyn Crowe - May 12 at 01:42 PM