



## Ruth Kruger

March 30, 1925 - January 8, 2014

Ruth Elaine Wilkins Kruger was born on March 30, 1925 in Blair, Nebraska to Grover and Fern (Schafer) Wilkins. She grew up on a farm near Kennard and Arlington where she attended Colby Country School before graduating from Arlington High School in 1942. As a young girl, Ruth was active in school, 4-H and a part of the busy activities on the farm including being responsible for having breakfast ready when the men returned from milking the cows. While in college at Midland, she played on the volleyball team and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education. Ruth married her high school sweetheart Gene Kruger on December 30, 1943 in the Methodist Church parsonage in Arlington, Nebraska. They raised five boys: Jim, John, Jerry, Joe and Dave as they made their home in Fremont and Arlington before settling in Elkhorn in 1949.

In addition to being a wife and mother, Ruth was a teacher, first at Colby School and several country schools near Valley and Elkhorn before teaching 3rd grade at Waterloo Public Schools.

Ruth was active in her church, serving in circle and several terms on the church council, she was also involved in Al-Anon. She enjoyed her flowers and traveling with the family, especially to Minnesota and Montana. She was co-founder and partner in Big Red Publications and worked there until her last day. Ruth was a patient, loving woman with a wonderful sense of humor and

will be remembered for her contagious laughter and smile. She enjoyed the solitude of reading and crossword puzzles as well as the excitement of Elkhorn Antler sporting events. Ruth was a meticulous homemaker and fantastic cook. Her roast beef dinners, fried chicken dinners, angel food cake, pies, and chocolate chip cookies were legendary among family and friends.

Ruth passed away suddenly on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 at the Lakeside Hospital in Omaha at the age of 88 years, 9 months and 9 days. Ruth and Gene celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary 10 days earlier on December 29th with many friends and family members in attendance. She was preceded in death by her parents Grover and Fern, brothers: Bill, Bob, Joe, Gene, Jamie, and sister Eva, and grandson Brandon Orsborn. Ruth is survived by her husband Gene; sons and daughters-in-law: Jim and Mary of Stayton, OR, John and Liza of LaVista, NE, Jerry and Corina of Omaha, Joe and Peggy of North Platte, NE and Dave and Cathy Dunham of Bennington, KS; grandchildren: Eric and Emily Kruger, Michael Kruger, Sara and Savanna Kruger; Jeremy, Nathan, and Joshua Dunham, Brittany and Caleb Peasinger, Breanna Orsborn, Drew and Taylor Holzer; and great granddaughter Aria Peasinger; and the family is happily awaiting the addition of a great grandson very soon.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Ruth Kruger*

December 10, 2022 at 09:12 AM



“ *My sincere condolences to the family of Ruth Elaine Wilkins Kruger - May you find comfort in your loving memories, beautiful pictures and in recalling the many talents Mrs. Kruger. God did not purpose that mankind suffer and die and has promised that a time will come when no one will say "I am sick" (Isaiah 33:24). The Bible promises a resurrection of dear family members and friends that we have lost (John 5:28, 29). I hope you are comforted by Bible promises of a hopeful future (John 17:3).*

**J Johnson** - January 21, 2014 at 07:10 PM



“ *Our sympathy to Gene and all the family, Ruth was a special Al-Anon friend for many years.*

**Larry & Pat Jensen** - January 18, 2014 at 01:07 PM



“ *Coach Kruger and family, my deepest sympathy; Rurh will be missed, but now she is with God.*

**pat dunklau** - January 13, 2014 at 08:18 AM

TR

“ Gene,  
Sorry to hear the news. Ruth's kindness and sweetness always made the day a great one when we would meet you and her. Our thoughts and prays are with you. The Roaches.

---

**Tom and Teri Roach** - January 11, 2014 at 03:20 PM

JF

“ We are so sorry for your loss. We will keep you in our prayers.  
She's a special lady.

---

**Jeff and Liz Fox** - January 11, 2014 at 02:25 PM

RP

“ My deepest sympathy to Kruger Family. Mr. Kruger you are still in my book the best teacher I have ever encountered. You and Ruth are a blessing to the Community of Elkhorn. Ranae Class of 79

---

**Ranae Christiansen Pilkington** - January 11, 2014 at 09:50 AM

CS

“ Dear Gene, Jerry and all of the Kruger Family, I am so sorry for your loss my thoughts and prayers are with you all. Ruth will be greatly missed. I will always carry the Big Red in my heart. Love yall

---

**cindie sanchez** - January 11, 2014 at 08:53 AM

RW

“ What a beautiful, sweet lady Ruth was and I loved seeing her great smile. She always had good things to say about everyone and we will miss her at our "Forever Young" group at church. She would speak to everyone and give you that sweet smile of hers. A great Christiam woman who loved the Lord and we are blessed to have known her. Prayers go out to Gene and his family.

---

**Rick & Marie Witt** - January 10, 2014 at 09:18 PM

JR

“ *Thinking of you and your family, Gene. Sending love and prayers!*

-----  
**Jill Runty** - January 10, 2014 at 06:49 PM

DC

“ *Gene,  
we all were very shocked and sad to read about Ruth. She was an  
absolute joy to see every Sunday. Our thoughts and prayers are  
with you and your family.  
Sincerely Holly and D & K Cafe .*

-----  
**D and K Cafe** - January 10, 2014 at 05:28 PM

MW

“ *John and family, We are so sorry to hear about your mom's passing.  
Our sincere sympathies go out to you and your entire family.*

-----  
**Marilyn and Bill Weller** - January 09, 2014 at 06:36 PM

LS

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. As a 1966 graduate of Elkhorn  
High School, I certainly remember Gene and Ruth as strong  
members of the community. The memory of Ruth will certainly be  
stored with the memories of my parents, Jake and Opal Sass.*

-----  
**Linda Sass** - January 09, 2014 at 03:13 PM

LS

“ *My deepest sympathy to the family. As a 1966 graduate of Elkhorn  
High School, I certainly remember Gene and Ruth as strong  
members of the community. The memory of Ruth will certainly be  
stored with the memories of my parents, Jake and Opal Sass.*

-----  
**Linda Sass** - January 09, 2014 at 03:13 PM

MA

“ *I am sorry for your loss please read rev21-4 this will help yourfamily so much.*

---

**marycannon** - January 09, 2014 at 03:00 PM