



Sandra Jean Rolles

October 16, 1943 - August 8, 2024

Sandra (Sandy) Jean Pingel was born October 16, 1943 in Cherokee, Iowa to Burdette and Lucille Niebuhr Pingel. She was baptized and confirmed at St. John's United Church of Christ in Brooke Township in Peterson, Iowa. She attended Brooke Consolidated and Hayes Consolidated High Schools. She enjoyed sports and played basketball, softball, and was a cheerleader. This is where she met her high school sweetheart, Bill Rolles.

In her senior year of high school, her family moved to Omaha and Sandy lived at the Lutheran Family Services home for girls where she gave birth to her and Bill's first son, Gene when she was 17 years old. Sandy and Bill made the painful decision to give their son up for adoption. She went on to graduate from Benson High School, class of 1961.

After high school, and passing her cosmetology boards, she moved down to Arkansas with her family where she apprenticed as a cosmetologist in Kimberling City, Missouri. Sandy and Bill had kept in touch and she eventually followed Bill to Albuquerque, New Mexico where they were married on November 18, 1962.

They eventually moved back to Omaha where they had their daughter Kellie in 1965, son, Kylon in 1968 and daughter, Kym in 1971. In March of 1971, Sandy was instrumental in helping Bill start their family business, Greater

Omaha Refrigeration. While being a stay-at-home mom with 3 kids, she also answered the company phone, dispatched calls, and helped with bookkeeping.

Sandy and Bill had always wondered about their son Gene and decided to find him in 1993 when he was 32 years old. They have had a wonderful relationship ever since. Sandy and Bill were overly blessed to see their family grow.

After reuniting with Gene, Sandy devoted her life to helping other birth mom's and adoptee's find their loved ones. She was instrumental in starting the Omaha Chapter of CUB (Concerned United Birthparent's) where she held a support group for 24 years. She attended and helped at CUB conferences annually. This was a true passion of hers. She was always there to help teen girls, or anyone, who needed her help. She even took into her home two different pregnant teens to help them through their pregnancy for a brief period.

Sandy and Bill have been members of St. Mark Lutheran Church for the past 59 years. They played on their mixed softball league. Sandy was the 3rd baseman. They were also in the church's couples-club.

Sandy worked part-time and had her own cleaning business for 32 years. She cleaned for working women and small businesses.

In her free time, she enjoyed taking rides with Bill in their IROC Convertible. Sandy loved music, especially rock and roll which was the license plate on their convertible. Her favorite was Elvis and the license plate on her car was N2EIVIS. Bill and Sandy would go every year to the Surf Ballroom in Clearlake, Iowa for the Winter Dance Party where Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper were killed in a plane crash after their February 2, 1959

performance. There they met friends from all over the world and would dress in their 50's clothes, Sandy wearing her rolled up jeans, flared skirts and can can's. Sandy would have the stars that sang at the concerts sign her saddle shoes. They would dance the night away. Sometimes staying up, even in their 70's, till 4:00 in the morning.

She and Bill would go yearly to Graceland in Memphis for Elvis week and meet up with friends, and 30,000 other people, to enjoy her favorite Elvis music.

What Sandy enjoyed most of all was family get-togethers and spending time with Bill. Her family meant the world to her. She was very loving and caring. She loved spending time with her grandkids and helping out by watching them, taking them to and from school, or to their sporting events. She always wanted to help out in any way she could and was always there if one of them needed her. In the summers, the entire family could be found in their pool. Some of the grandkids favorite memories are grandma making lunch and letting them eat outside by the pool.

Sandy 's favorite vacations were in Florida. Her favorite areas were Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, and the Naples area of Florida. She enjoyed walking the beaches and looking for shells.

During retirement, Sandy really enjoyed getting together with friends for breakfast or lunches. This meant a lot to her. She also enjoyed pedicures with her best friend Linda, their trips to the Open Door Mission to drop off donations and lunch at their favorite restaurant, Charleston's.

Sandy also volunteered during her retirement by cuddling the preemies and other babies in the NICU at Children's Hospital and volunteering at the Omaha

Police Department.

Sandy passed away after a 4 and a half year courageous battle with endometrial cancer. Even through her years with cancer, Sandy was still a caretaker to her family and her husband Bill, with his cancer. Up till the very end Sandy still had a sense of humor, a smile and was still trying to fight. She will always be remembered by her family for the strength and grace she had during this difficult battle.

Sandy was preceded in death by her parents Burdette and Lucille Pingel, her brother Dennis Pingel, in-laws, William and Ruby Rolles, her brother-in-law Larry Rolles. Sandy is survived by her loving husband Bill of 61 years. Her Son Gene (Jerri), daughter Kellie, son Kylon (Vincy), daughter Kym, grandkids Eric Neemann, Adam Neemann (Katie), Luke Neemann, Jordyn Rolles (Trevor), Sydney Rolles, Kylon Rolles, Jordan Abraham (Tyler), Josie Abraham, great grandchild, Bellamy Beekley. her brother Warren Pingel (Chris), sister-in-law Nancy Pingel, sister-in-law, Deanne Rolles, brother-in-law, Terry Rolles (Karen), sister-in-law, Lisa Rolles, nieces Beth, Mindee, Marisa, Joy and Katie. Nephews Shannon, Sean, Todd, Chad and many other relatives and friends.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the family to be designated to the UNMC Gynecology Cancer Research Fund and St. Mark Lutheran Church (1821 N 90th St, Omaha, NE 68114).

Previous Events

Celebration of Life Service

AUG **31**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
1821 N 90th St, Omaha, NE 68114
Omaha, NE 68114

Tribute Wall

EB

“ *Elizabeth Bratkiv lit a candle in memory of Sandra Jean Rolles* ”



Elizabeth Bratkiv - August 31, 2024 at 10:46 AM

EB

Hi, I am Beth and was unable to travel over from England to be there with you all today, but still wanted to share some words about my beloved Aunt Sandy.

I know that this will be read, at her service, on my behalf but wanted to post it here as well.

For many, an Aunt is more than just a relative. She is a source of wisdom, laughter, support, and unconditional love.

Sandy, you were a pillar of strength and love in this family. Your absence leaves a vast void, but your spirit and the love that you gave us will remain in our hearts, forever.

The bond between us was unbreakable and filled with unconditional love. Your memory will be a constant strength and comfort for me. You embraced life with a full heart, and your zest for living and strong family values will always continue to inspire all of me.

When I think of you, Aunt Sandy, I think of My love for Elvis! and us dancing to his records that played from your jukebox.

I think of your rice Krispy Treats and Monster Cookies. Your smile, and your laugh.

I will always think of your unwavering support for dad, Dennis, and all that he endured in my early years and how you and Uncle Bill took me in, as one of your own children. You always made me feel like one of your own. Special. Loved and Protected. A part of a FAMILY.

You instilled values and morals in me that I apply in my daily life and have instilled in my own children.

Most of all, I will remember your fairness and kindness. You were the glue that held us altogether.

You brought me so much joy, made me feel so loved, supported, and valued.

You were a second mom to me and always had my best interests at heart.

I will miss you, every day.

Since Dad passed, I look up to the North Star, every night, and think of Dad guiding me.

NOW, I will think of you with Grandpa, Grandma and Dad – Guiding us ALL through our journey in life.

I want to Thank You for being my North Star from my early childhood years - and NOW beyond.

You have left an amazing legacy in your children and everyone else you have touched along your remarkable journey.

Elizabeth Bratkiv - August 31, 2024 at 10:51 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Sandra Jean Rolles.*



August 30, 2024 at 01:13 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sandra Jean Rolles.*



August 29, 2024 at 07:59 PM



“ *Rachel Wellman planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Sandra Jean Rolles.*

Rachel Wellman - August 29, 2024 at 07:59 PM



“ *Sending our sincere condolences to you Bill and family. We have great memories of years gone by shared with you and Sandy in Clear Lake, Iowa . From : Ray and Marva Kroll.*

Marva Kroll - August 28, 2024 at 03:47 PM

KK

“ I am so sorry for the family's loss. Sandy was a amazing women and the most compassionate. I remember in high school helping Bill and Sandy around there house with yard work. Then Bill helped me with my first job in the refrigeration field. All though after 7 great years I moved on to another career I will always appreciate everything Bill and Sandy did for me. Hugs to you all during this tough time.

Karl Klein - August 18, 2024 at 03:14 PM