



## Emily State

January 31, 1938 - April 6, 2018

Emily (Seeland) State, 80 of Kearney, died April 5, 2018 at home. Funeral Service will be 10:30 a.m., April 11, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church with Pastor Eldin Wells officiating, with burial at Kearney Cemetery. A Celebration of Life Service will follow the burial at Kearney Country Club from noon until 2:00 p.m. Visitation will be from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., April 10, 2018 at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services. Memorials are suggested to Habitat for Humanity in Kearney, First Presbyterian Church, or M.O.N.A.

Emily grew up in Grinnell, Iowa and graduated from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa in 1960. Following graduation, Emily married her high school sweetheart, Doug State, and they were happily and lovingly married for 51 years. While they lived in Iowa, Emily taught junior high Spanish and Home Economics for one year. Later, they lived in Denver, CO for five years where Doug started his law career, and then moved to Kearney in 1967. Together they had three daughters: Beth, Laura, and Emmy. Later in life they spent their time together traveling the world to Cabo San Lucas, New Zealand, and throughout Europe.

Emily was a woman of great humility and kindness. She was always willing to serve others with a gentle heart and could be found staying up late to finish projects or her world famous cinnamon rolls for the people she loved. She was an avid seamstress with a creative mind. Emily was the example of a hardworking mother who knew how to put her family first and take care of them. Her personality was shown through her sense of style. Emily could never pass up a good sale on shoes and knew exactly what piece of jewelry would go with each outfit. Emily was healthy, vibrant, and full of joy. Even after Doug passed, she made it a point to be active in the lives of her three daughters and their families.

She treasured each of her 11 grandchildren and four great grandchildren so individually. She made it a point to attend each important life event of theirs, whether that be school or sporting events, graduations, weddings or the birth of their babies. She knew how to make each one feel special, seen and cherished.

Emily always had a full calendar and dedicated any of her free time to volunteering and being involved in her community. She was a member of P.E.O., having served as president. She was actively involved in the MONA Guild, served as a docent and chaired Kaleidoscope. She was a Girl Scout Leader, a volunteer for the American Red Cross and Good Samaritan Hospital in their gift shop. She served on the board of the Friends of the Lied Center and was a loyal Habitat for Humanity volunteer. She loved her Monday night Book Club and her Tuesday morning Bible Study. She loved her church, First United Presbyterian, and served in the choir and as a deacon. She loved her friends, planning and attending many Fishwives trips all around the United States. She never stopped learning and took classes at the Senior College. She golfed with the Kearney Country Club Women's Golf League and was an active Gamma Phi Beta alumna. During football season, she was at the top of her game competing in her FEMME fantasy football league. The rest of her week would be filled with meeting her friends for lunch or coffee and attending one of her several bridge clubs.

Emily was full of life until the very end, enjoying every day spent with people she loved and cared for. Her heart was generous, and she left a positive and lasting impact on the people she met. She was one to speak life to people, letting them know she believed in them, how they were important and what she loved about them. Her life was admired by her children and grandchildren, with constant whispers of "isn't grandma the greatest!".

Hanging in her home, she has the quote, "Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul." Emily was one who never lost her zeal for life and took each day as an opportunity to fit as much life into one day as possible.

We rest in knowing that she is now at the throne of her Savior, and once again reunited in the arms of her best friend, Doug. As we say goodbye to the lively soul Emily was, we know she is finally home and complete once again with Doug by her side.

Survivors include her daughters and spouses Beth and Bob Betthouser of Gardner, KS., Laura and Daniel Reinders of Huron, SD., and Emmy and Jay Johnson of Scottsdale, AZ.; Grandchildren Brian Betthouser and his wife Mindy, of San Antonio, TX., Andrew Betthouser and Philip Betthouser, both of Gardner, KS., Emily Matteson and her husband, Josh, of Overland Park, KS., Hannah Schouten and her husband, Jon, of Huron SD., Carly Reinders and Tory Reinders both of Huron, S.D., Nathan Reinders of Valley Village, CA., Vladik Reinders of Kansas City, MO., Alexa Johnson and Amanda Johnson both of Scottsdale, AZ.; Great-Grandchildren Blakely Betthouser and Brixley Betthouser of San Antonio, TX., Kobe Schouten and Theo Schouten of Huron, SD.

She was preceded in death by her husband, and parents.

# Cemetery

---

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I

Kearney, NE, 68847

# Events

---

**APR** **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

**10**

---

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl

2421 Avenue A, Kearney, NE, US, 68847

**APR** **Funeral Service** 10:30AM

**11**

---

First Presbyterian Church

4511 6th Avenue, Kearney, NE, US, 68845

# Comments

---



“ I am thinking of all of you today. I learned just a few days ago of Emily's death and am still trying to take it in. I have know her since we walked to kindergarten together to Parker School in Grinnell. We went through 12 years of school together, had sleep overs at the Seeland house on 10th Avenue, was in her wedding, have had reunions and get togethers. She was great at sending email and positive messages. I will miss her, miss her, miss her. Hannah Gale Pinkerton

**Hannah Pinkerton** - April 11, 2018 at 05:14 PM



“ Thank you for this great memory of our mom. We heard so many wonderful stories of you and your group of friends.... you, Sandy Porter, Gretchen, and I'm sure I'm forgetting someone so my apologies. But I know you held a special place in her heart. We sure miss her!

**Emmy** - April 14, 2018 at 10:54 AM

---



“ Laura, Emmy, and Beth -- I am so very sorry about your mom's passing. She was really the sweetest lady. It was always fun going to your house. I remember one time we were playing "spoons" at the wooden table with GRAPEFRUIT spoons!! Who does that?!! We scratched the table, of course, and I don't even think your mom even got mad! She was always just so nice! Lots of great memories of her and your family. Please know that I am thinking of each one of you and sending hugs and prayers during this sad time and always. Love, Jane

**Jane Carroll Falk** - April 10, 2018 at 05:12 PM

---



“ Jane Carroll Falk lit a candle in memory of Emily State



**Jane Carroll Falk** - April 10, 2018 at 05:07 PM

---



“ So very sorry for your loss. Emily was the most caring person I have ever met. I feel honored to have known her. May all the amazing memories that you have of her give you strength and peace at this very sad time in your lives. Deepest sympathy, The Sawicki Family

**Todd Sawicki** - April 09, 2018 at 11:32 PM

---



“ Beth, Laura, Emily  
I'm so sorry of the sudden passing of your mom, she was everyone's mom - so sweet and kind, never said a bad thing about anyone. I loved going to your house and spending time there. Cherish your memories! Thinking of all of you! Sending prayers!  
Jodi Hehnke Kreikemeier

**Jodi Kreikemeier** - April 09, 2018 at 10:20 PM

---



“ Beth may thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

**Fonda Hsnks** - April 09, 2018 at 07:28 PM

---



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Emily State.



April 09, 2018 at 06:43 PM

---



“ Your James Valley Christian School Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Emily State.



Your James Valley Christian School Family - April 09, 2018 at 06:19 PM

---



“ Gloria, Penny, Georgie, Erica, Shari, Janet, Laura, and Sharlene purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Emily State.



Gloria, Penny, Georgie, Erica, Shari, Janet, Laura, and Sharlene - April 09, 2018 at 02:45 PM

---



“ Beth, Laura and Emmy - I'm thinking of you all as I remember Emily. She was such a highlight of growing up in the neighborhood. I always smile when I think of your mom's kindness and joy for life. She was a special lady. Sending hugs and heartfelt condolences.  
-Nancy

Nancy Payne - April 08, 2018 at 06:37 PM

---



“ Ann, Cindy and Ted purchased the Tender Tribute for the family of Emily State.



Ann, Cindy and Ted - April 08, 2018 at 11:50 AM

---



“ With love, Your State "G2" cousins and families purchased the The Endless Sky Spray for the family of Emily State.



With love, Your State "G2" cousins and families - April 08, 2018 at 07:25 AM

---



“ Millie purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Emily State.



Millie - April 07, 2018 at 09:52 PM

---



“ Beth, Laura and Emmy, and family, We are so sorry to hear of your mom passing! Our hearts are breaking and we have also had many tears as we remember her with a heart warming love!

When your Mom came to South Dakota with all the girls, I had the privilege to chauffeur them through the Black Hills, less than five minutes into our tour, for some reason your Mom started laughing, and we all started laughing, I could barely to drive! The whole entire day was like and when we returned to moms house we were so tired but no one wanted to go to bed because they just enjoyed each other company so much! I thought how blessed we all are to have such great friends, where they all could just be silly with each other! We have so many wonderful memories of your whole family and she was truly beautiful inside and out!

May all of your beautiful memories help you find a little peace! Our hearts and prayers are with you and we are sending big huge hugs and so much love ....

Cammy and Mary Ellen

Cammy Lantis - April 07, 2018 at 08:03 PM

---



“ Love, Mike, Alyson Carlson and family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Emily State.



Love, Mike, Alyson Carlson and family - April 07, 2018 at 03:31 PM

---



“ Emily - I will always remember your kindness, friendship, and generosity. You were such a special friend to our family, and a very faithful servant of God ~ forever doing good, and helping others. My heart breaks for my parents, who loved you and Doug as their dearest friends, for your beautiful daughters and their families, and for all of those whose lives you've touched with your hands and heart. But, I celebrate knowing that you are now living the eternal life we all dream of. I imagine you and Doug telling stories, giggling, and dancing in heaven, Emily. Love you always, Alyson

Alyson Carlson - April 07, 2018 at 03:26 PM