



Arlene M. Wiederspan

October 25, 1928 - September 9, 2025

Arlene Mae Wiederspan, 96, formerly of Hastings and recently of Kearney, passed away on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at her home at CountryHouse in Kearney. Private family inurnment will be held at the Kearney Cemetery, followed by a celebration of life with family and friends on Saturday, October 4, 11:30 a.m. at the Harmon Park Activity Center.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials in Arlene's honor be made to AseraCare of Kearney. We are grateful for the loving care provided for her in her last days. We are also appreciative of the staff at CountryHouse who loved and cared for her and will continue to look after Kenneth.

Arlene Mae Kenton was born October 25, 1928, at home on a farm three miles east of Ravenna, Nebraska to Melvin and Alice (McInroy) Kenton. She attended country school. After the death of her father in 1940, Arlene and her mother moved to Kearney. She graduated from Kearney High School with the Class of 1946.

Arlene attended Kearney State College for one year, where she met her future husband, Kenneth A. Wiederspan. They were united in marriage on October 26, 1949, at First Methodist Church in Kearney. To this union three children were born: Patricia, Rodney, and Kathryn. As Kenneth was a teacher, coach, and school administrator, they made their home in several Nebraska

communities including Oconto, Eddyville, Kearney, Stratton, Pleasanton, Beaver City, and Hastings. She also accompanied Kenneth as he served in the US Army in both California and Washington state. They moved to Kinship Point at Northridge in Kearney in 2021, after residing in Hastings for 54 years.

After retirement, Arlene and Kenneth enjoyed traveling extensively with Kenneth's twin brother Keith and his wife, Hazel. Arlene and Hazel were friends from high school.

A devoted wife and mother, Arlene was dedicated to her family and extended family. She worked for a time as a teacher's aide at Lincoln Elementary School in Hastings. She loved her grandchildren dearly and attended many of their activities. Arlene was a member of Chapter FH, PEO and a long-time member of Grace United Methodist Church in Hastings. She followed a tradition established by her mother of remembering so many family members and friends with cards and notes for special occasions.

She is survived by her husband Kenneth of Kearney; daughter, Pat (Clint) Jones of Kearney; son, Rod (Janna) Wiederspan of Kearney; and daughter Kathy (Rick) Stults of Littleton, CO; grandchildren Hogan (Lauren) Jones, Michaela (David) O'Neill, Timaree (Kurtis) Charling, Nichole (Chris) Otto, and Zach Stults; and great-grandchildren Graham and Elliott Jones, Brielle and Linden O'Neill, Kyndall and Kipton Charling, and Holland and Ellis Otto.

Arlene was preceded in death by her parents, and her stepfather, Andy Sorensen. Although Arlene had no siblings, she grew up in close relationships with McInroy aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Cremation service and arrangements are under the care of Horner, Lieske, McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Service of Kearney. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall

VB

“ *What wonderful years Arlene has had. We loved being their neighbors for over 50 years in Hastings. Their children were so much fun for us to watch as they were teenagers and ours were small. She was a thoughtful person and remembering birthdays, etc. each year. Ken and Arlene did everything together after retiring and were always so proud of their family. Each new child was the highlight of their lives. We are sorry to not be able to attend the service, but are sending our very best along to Ken and family. We know you are missing her terribly and ask for God's presence in your life to help you through this difficult time.. Vicki, Paul, BEAU AND SHEA BERGMAN*

VICKI BERGMAN - October 01, 2025 at 03:34 PM

BC

“ *Arlene and Ken were our dear neighbors in Pleasanton. Arlene so effortlessly radiated her warmth toward me, a shy seven year old, and I always felt seen and heard by her no matter what else was going on in our busy households. Just one of the many qualities of beautiful Arlene....
My deepest sympathy to you, Ken, and to Patty, Rodney, Kathy and your families. May your memories give you peace.
Brenda Ritter Costanza*

Brenda Ritter Costanza - September 16, 2025 at 10:24 PM

CM

“ *Ken and family, May the joyful memories of Arlene give you comfort and peace. Carolyn and Rich McKenzie*

Carolyn McKenzie - September 15, 2025 at 06:24 PM

MU

“ I miss seeing both you and Arlene the last few years. You both were special people...you were fun to visit with in the Drug Store or when you were out for a Sunday drive around Heartwell Park. You were a great principal at Longfellow School.....Mike and Sue Uridil

Mike and Sue Uridil - September 15, 2025 at 01:28 PM

DH

“ We're sending prayers, sympathy and love to all of the family.
Ollie Huber Griess
Deb Huber Hahn

Deb Hahn - September 15, 2025 at 09:41 AM

CS

“ Our deepest symatathy to ken and family Arlene was a lovely lady and will be missed by many!
Your Hastings friends and neighbors
Richard and charlotte Smart

charlitte Smart - September 13, 2025 at 04:31 PM

VK

“ I worked with Arlene at Lincoln School as a paraprofessional for several years, and she was so wonderful to work with. Also I went to Grace United Church with both of your parents. What a wonderful couple they were. Their love for each other was an example of what marriage is all about. Vicki Kyle

Vicki Kyle - September 13, 2025 at 11:11 AM

DH

“ I was the church secretary at Grace UMC for ten years before I retired. Ken and Arlene would come to my office every Thursday to help me fold bulletins and the weekly Gracevine newsletters. Thursday was my favorite workday because of my “folders”. We had so much fun and some really inspiring conversations. Ken was principal at Longfellow when I attended. Pat was in Jobs Daughters as was I (class of 1975). God bless.
Denise Wells Hauff

Denise Hauff - September 13, 2025 at 09:43 AM



“ Grew up across the backyard from Ken and Arlene in Hastings
They were the best neighbors to my folks Ira and Rochelle Rhoades
Prayers and condolences
from Dan Rhoades and family Marion Iowa



Dan Rhoades - September 11, 2025 at 06:00 PM

DY

Im deeply sorry Rod, in the loss of your mother. In fact, coincidentally , Ive been thinking about you, I missed you 6 yrs ago in Hastings @ a 60th birthday party for our class. God bless, & take care! My mom is 95. They've both had long lives.

David Youngblood - September 13, 2025 at 03:48 PM

RT

Ken was my Coach,they was a Good to have known

Ron Thaut - September 15, 2025 at 11:21 AM

VB

*Oh what wonderful neighbors. We moved in across the street from them in 1972. The whole family were wonderful neighbors. Our grandsons even enjoyed them. It was a sad day when they moved to Kearney but we knew it was important for them. Ken will miss her terribly as they did everything together. Prayers with you all at this time.
Paul and Vicki Bergman*

Vicki Bergman - September 16, 2025 at 04:34 PM