



Gena G. Rodgers

April 19, 1927 - February 11, 2026

Gena G. Rodgers, age 98 of Kearney, passed away on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at St. John's Good Samaritan Society in Kearney. Funeral services will be on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at First Lutheran Church in Kearney. Visitation will be 1 hour prior to services at the church. Burial will be at Kearney Cemetery. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a message or condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney is in charge of arrangements.

Gena Gertrude Irish was born 4/19/1927 at the family farm near Belgrade in Boone County, Nebraska, the 5th of 5 children born to S. Ralph and Leona Berge Irish.

She attended country school west of Winnetoon, Nebraska through the 8th grade, then to Creighton, Nebraska for 9th and 10th grades, and to Neligh for 11th and 12th grades, graduating in 1944. This is where Gena met Daryl Rodgers, her high school sweetheart. They were married in Creighton, Nebraska in 1945.

Gena, known as "Mrs. Rodgers," started her teaching career in 1944 after earning the Normal Training Certificate, which enabled her to instruct all grades from K-8 in country schools. She later received a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska and later, a Master's Degree

in Education from Kearney State College. Gena spent 36 years teaching, retiring from Park Elementary in Kearney where she especially enjoyed helping her 1st graders learn to read.

Gena was a supportive and loving wife, mother, grandmother, aunt, and friend. As a life-long learner herself, she inspired many family members to pursue higher education and personal growth.

Gena was a member of First Lutheran Church in Kearney, and a 50-year member of PEO and Eastern Star.

She is survived by her husband of over 80 years, Daryl Rodgers of Kearney; son, Brad (Kim) Rodgers of Kearney; daughter, Janet (David) Dwiggins of Gibbon; 7 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents and stepmother; sisters, Mildred Henzlik and Ruth Serra; brothers, Marvin Irish and Dean Irish; and half-brother, Bob Irish.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 17. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church ELCA
3315 G Ave
Kearney, NE 68847-3653
(308) 237-5544

Funeral Service

FEB 17. 10:00 AM (CT)

First Lutheran Church
3315 Avenue G
Kearney, NE

Tribute Wall

VO

“ Gena was a dear friend and teacher. Her and her husband Daryl always came out and played cards with my folks. She was my older brother's and my teacher in grade school out in the country, district #44. I also remember going to her house to see her kids, Brad and Janet when they were babies. Just lately we would call each other and tell stories of the past and what we were both up to. I will never forget her or her husband Daryl. God Bless you Gena and Rest In Peace!!

Vicki (Short) O'Tool - February 28 at 12:09 PM

ES

Gena was my very best school teacher also Dist 44 she helped me with my phonics I believe it was about my 6th grade year, I should have gotten them a lot sooner so she really took the time to help me but that was just the way she was. I could go on and on about all the great things she did for all her students . I also would call her a few times a year . She a real pleasure to chat with. Sorry for your loss . Errol Schafer

Errol Schafer - March 16 at 02:26 PM

KO

“ My condolences to the family. I always enjoyed visiting with Mrs. Rodgers in the past (way, way past) when they were at events at the golf course. She liked to brag about her grandchildren, and I loved to hear about them.

Kathy Olsufka

Kathryn A Olsufka - February 19 at 05:26 PM

KW

“ Brad n Janet and families sorry for your loss of your mom. Always enjoyed them when our parents got together there in Krny years ago. Prayers for comfort at this time, though her memory will always keep her in your heart!

Kevin J Wagner - February 17 at 01:54 PM

DS

“ Geena was a dear friend of my mother, Ellene Euler, and always kind to my brother, Tim Euler. I knew her mostly through their eyes, but when our mother was in her last days in 2011, Geena came to visit her. My mom was afraid of dying and Geena held my Mom's hand and told her what a wonderful friend she had been and assured her that she was going to be safe in God's hands. That visit helped my mother to be calmer and for that I will always be so grateful. My sincere condolences to her family and loved ones,
Diane Euler Snyder

Diane Snyder - February 16 at 09:26 PM

KE

“ Brad, So sorry to read of the loss of your mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your whole family. Ken and Carol Eigenberg

Ken Eigenberg - February 16 at 07:49 PM

NS

“ Nicole S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gena G. Rodgers.

Nicole S. - February 16 at 05:31 PM

BD

“ As a childhood friend of Janet, I spent parts of many summers with their family after they moved away from my hometown. Gena was always loving, compassionate and kind. She was truly a blessing to many, including me. My sincere condolences to Daryl, Janet, Brad and their families. Her sugar cookies are a favorite of my family. I have her handwritten recipe card from the 1970's.

Barb Van Dyke - February 16 at 12:28 PM

BR

🙏 Thank you Barb 🙏

Brooke Ramadhin, formerly Rodgers - February 16 at 09:40 PM

SB

“ Sherry and Jim Bicak purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gena G. Rodgers.



Sherry and Jim Bicak - February 16 at 08:30 AM

SB

“ Sherry and Jim Bicak planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gena G. Rodgers.

Sherry and Jim Bicak - February 16 at 08:30 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Gena G. Rodgers.



February 15 at 06:31 PM

LU

“ Gena was a wonderful teacher & such a delight to know. She was Sarah’s favorite teacher throughout school, caring, kind & very outspoken: She & Daryl were part of a coffee group who met several evenings at our shop. Wr celebrated birthdays & anniversaries as friends. Our girls called Daryl “Dario” & always got big hugs from them both..Gena will be missed by all of us. Steinwart family

LuAnn - February 15 at 09:44 AM

BR

🙏 Thank you LuAnn

Brooke Ramadhin, formerly Rodgers - February 16 at 09:41 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Gena G. Rodgers.

February 14 at 10:57 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Gena G. Rodgers.



February 14 at 10:57 AM

LW

“ So sorry Dr Rodgers and family in the loss of your Mom. Such a sweet lady. Enjoyed my visits with her, while visiting my dad at St Johns.

Lorer Wicht - February 13 at 06:42 PM

B(

Thank you very much 🙏

Brooke Ramadhin (Rodgers) - February 14 at 11:31 AM

JG

“ Janet Ganesh planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gena G. Rodgers.

Janet Ganesh - February 13 at 03:50 PM

JG

“ Janet G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gena G. Rodgers.

Janet G. - February 13 at 03:50 PM

JH

“ Gena was a very dear friend of mine. We met when I was in college and she was teaching at Park. Gena and I loved to go to lunch at Alley Rose and catch up on all that was happening. Her friendship meant a great deal to me. I will miss you friend.

Janice R Harvey-Polk - February 13 at 01:27 PM

BR

Thank you Janice. She always had the best of friends and the fullest social calendar ❤️🙏

Brooke Ramadhin, formerly Rodgers - February 14 at 11:34 AM

H&

“ Herbert &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gena G. Rodgers.

Herbert &. - February 13 at 10:29 AM

TF

“ *The Ramadhin Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gena G. Rodgers.*



The Ramadhin Family - February 13 at 09:22 AM

JO

“ *Jerry & April Ondrak purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Gena G. Rodgers.*



Jerry & April Ondrak - February 12 at 10:26 PM

DH

“ *Dr. Rodgers, Kim, & family,
We are so saddened to learn of the loss of your mother. Keeping you
in our thoughts and prayers. Denver & Bonnie Hartwell*

Denver & Bonnie Hartwell - February 12 at 10:17 PM

BR

Thank you very much 🙏

brooke ramadhin - February 14 at 11:30 AM

BR

Thank you very much 🙏

Brooke Ramadhin, formerly Rodgers - February 14 at 11:35 AM

LH

*To Daryl and family,
I am so sorry to hear of Gena's passing. We all enjoyed her lovely smile here at the Regency. We have missed Daryl and Gena living here at the Regency. We hope your memories will bring you comfort as time moves on. Again so sorry for your loss.*

*Linda Hall
Regency of Kearney*

Linda Hall - February 17 at 02:44 PM

DR

“Denise R. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gena G. Rodgers.

Denise R. - February 12 at 04:23 PM