



## Janet C. Arnold

February 25, 1933 - March 6, 2024

Janet Caroline (Van Skike) Arnold, 91, passed away March 6th at Brookstone Gardens in Kearney Ne. Memorial services will be 4:00 p.m., Saturday, April 13, 2024 at the Kearney First Baptist Church with Pastor Mark de Kluyver officiating. Memorials are suggested to Hot Meals USA. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Janet was born February 25, 1933, on her parents', Francis and Madge Van Skike (McCurry) farm in Scotia Nebraska. She was the third child of four. Janet attended 8 years in a one room country school before attending high school in Scotia. Janet was her dad's girl, helping with farm work after older brother, Kenny, left for the Korean War. Janet initially helped with the horses and wagon and liked getting a break when the horses needed a rest. When she started driving the tractor, she lamented there were no more breaks since the tractor didn't need a rest. Janet was proud to be from a farming family. She had strong devotion and admiration for her parents and siblings, especially her sister Joan.

In high school Janet liked math, cheerleading, socializing, and singing. While being in the cast of a musical as a 14-year-old freshman, she caught the eye of the pastor's ornery 16-year-old son. In a few years they went from being cast members to married couple. The duo founded in high school ran for 68 years.

Janet married John Arnold in 1951. While husband John finished school at UNL, Janet worked at a dry cleaners. When she discovered she would have to work on Husker football Saturdays, she quit. She got a job at a bank the next week. What she learned there served her well as she owned the 24-hour Lamb's Diner in Burlington Iowa for 30 years. At age 50, she opened the Hungry Bear, another diner on North Hill in Burlington. People and food. This was her thing. Snacks, coffee, tea would always be offered in their home. Even while living in skilled nursing, she would offer a drink of water or a snack. Serving people was her passion. Hospitality was her gift.

Janet had children and grandchildren. She loved each one and enjoyed their company. Visiting each child and grandchild yearly was a priority even as the family was scattered across several states. Growing up, the 3 children were expected to have a part-time job and to show up for family meals. Those meals were times for debate and learning. For the 4 grandchildren, mealtime lasted all day with unlimited M&M's and as much soda as they could drink. No "special" family meal would have been complete without Janet's red Jello salad with fruit cocktail. She made it well and often.

Janet and husband John were a committed team, being organized, efficient and practical. This couple entertained in their home and gathered with friends often. A sense of adventure was also shared. They traveled. All of the 50 states were visited over the years, as well as all 7 continents. There were stories.

Janet's stories are closely linked to John, always John. They made a family. They worked hard. They played hard. When retirement came, the family home in Iowa was sold and they began a relaxed life in Mesa AZ. Entertaining, socializing, and traveling remained a constant.

After John's death in 2019, Janet moved to Brookstone Gardens in Kearney. Despite the change in her life and circumstances, Janet remained a positive, happy woman. Affability was her trademark. She remarked numerous times, "I've had a wonderful life."

Janet is survived by daughters, Cheryl Buck (Jerry Vanderkamp ) of Osceola IA, Sandi Petersen and husband Kipp of Kearney, grandsons, Ryan Buck of Peoria, IL and Jake Buck; granddaughters, Rachel Buck and husband Nick Zdorkowski, of Stoughton WI , Lindsey Morris and husband David of Lincoln, great-grandsons, Sawyer Buck, Jonah Morris and great-granddaughters Raven Buck and Nora Morris.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, John, her siblings Kenneth Van Skike, Joan Meyer, Jerry Van Skike, and son Bill Arnold.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

APR 13. 4:00 PM (CT)

First Baptist Church  
3610 6th Ave.  
Kearney, NE 68845

# Tribute Wall

PS

“ *Sandy, I'm so sorry to hear about your Mom. I remember when she took us up to the Iowa girls basketball tournament in Des Moines. She was a great lady. Patty*

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**Patty Smith** - March 16, 2024 at 07:53 PM

RB

“ *Grandma Arnold was a very sweet person. I hadn't seen her in a few years, and I will miss her very much. May she rest in peace.*

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**Raven Buck** - March 09, 2024 at 09:17 PM