



Marcella "Sally" A. Schulte

November 25, 1941 - May 26, 2026

Marcella A. Schulte, 84, of Omaha, NE, formerly Riverdale, NE, passed away on Tuesday, May 26, 2026, at her home in Omaha. A Funeral Mass will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, June 1, 2026 at St. James Catholic Church in Kearney. Father Matt Koperski will celebrate and burial will be at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery at Prairie Center. Sally's family will celebrate her life with a vigil service on Sunday, May 31, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. followed by visitation until 7:00 p.m. all at the church. Please visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney, NE is assisting the family with arrangements.

Marcella (Sally) Schulte passed into eternal life in her Omaha home at the age of 84 on May 26, 2026, surrounded by the love of family and the grace of the sacraments. Born Marcella Richter on November 25, 1941, in Kearney, NE, to Lawrence and Violet Richter, Sally was the third of six children. She loved her five siblings and remained close throughout their lives. Sally had beautiful red hair and a talent for playing the accordion. Though she never made it to the Lawrence Welk show, as her father imagined, she had remarkable musical talent, playing by ear on the accordion, piano, and organ.

A Kearney High graduate, Sally attended the College of St. Mary in Omaha and remained an active alumna. Majoring in Home Economics with a minor in Art, she was the first in her family to complete a four-year liberal arts degree.

During her Senior year, Sally was elected by her fellow students to the honorary title "Queen of Hearts" as part of an annual winter dance and celebration. It was one moment among many, recognizing her beauty, grace, kindness, and a quality of being universally beloved. In her final days, she said more than once that she didn't understand why people loved her so much.

After college, Sally worked as a Home Extension agent before marrying the love of her life, James Schulte. They settled near Jim's family north of Kearney, where they were active parishioners at St. Mary's Catholic Church at Prairie Center. Sally and Jim spent 25 beautiful years of marriage together, raising their five children until Jim's passing in 1992. When asked whether she ever considered remarriage, Sally said it never occurred to her because she already "had the perfect marriage for 25 years." She remained close with her nine Schulte in-laws, who loved her as a sister.

While caring for their children and home, Sally also helped her community. She served on the Pleasanton school board, judged at county fairs, and worked for the census. After Jim's passing, she courageously re-entered the workforce and eventually became a supervisor at Curtis and Associates in Kearney. After 11 years with C&A, Sally had another professional change. Her parents hired her to oversee their in-home care. She managed a staff that provided 24-hour nursing support throughout their final years. Her care of them is mirrored by her own daughter, Susan, who cared for her at home through her own end of life.

Ann and Paul Sucha bought the family house from Sally, refilling it with life as they raised their children, creating a multi-generational home with her for fourteen years. Sally later took her well-honed grandmothering skills to Sioux Falls, SD, to join Susan and Matt Puumala as they welcomed their second child. The care she shared with her family was returned to her as she aged

and endured many illnesses.

Sally loved her five children, children-in-law, and nine grandchildren. She was interested in every part of their lives, never too busy for a phone call or a visit. She sent beautiful cards for every occasion, with the important words underlined (often twice). Family was central to Sally and the focus of her daily prayers. She was a lifelong Catholic, actively involved in each parish she called home. Her faith formed her outlook on life, and she told her children more times than could be counted: "Let us not forget to be kind." These words, along with many others, are preserved in her memoir "Sally's Stories." In it, she left a written legacy of her love, as a gift to all who loved her.

Sally is preceded in death by her parents, Lawrence and Violet (Theis) Richter; parents-in-law Lawrence and Helen (Hansen) Schulte; her siblings their spouses, James Dean Richter and Jean Stribling, Patricia (Richter) Reinhardt, James and Jeni (Wiseman) Richter, Karen (Richter) and Richard Clark, Linda (Richter) Spellman; her nephew and nieces, Rob Spellman, Annette (Spellman) Amos, Angie (Spellman) Goellner, and of course by her loving husband, James Schulte.

Sally is survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Rick and DeAnn (Willet) Richter; her brothers-in-law Floyd Reinhardt and Virgil Spellman; children and children-in-law, Dan and Melanie Cloonan-Schulte, Ann (Schulte) and Paul Sucha, Rebecca (Schulte) and Tom Murray, Susan (Schulte) and Matt Puumala, Sara and Adam Schulte-Bukowinski; grandchildren, Madeleine Murray, Marlaena Sucha and her fiancé Cesar Barreto, James and his wife Isabelle Sucha, Nolan Murray, Alexandria Cloonan-Schulte, Soren Puumala, James Cloonan-Schulte, Helen Puumala, and Fiona Murray, as well as her Schulte in-laws, many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.

Cemetery Details

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery at Prairie Center

31240 190th Road
Riverdale, NE 68870

Previous Events

Vigil Service

MAY 31. 5:00 PM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Funeral Mass

JUN 1. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. James Catholic Church
3801 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847

Tribute Wall

LS

“ One of my favorite songwriters has a song that is appropriate for Sally (and Jim Schulte). Love to all of Sally's family from Louis and Ruth Schulte.

Two Trees
author: Chuck Pyle

*Where the mountains
make the wind
And the yellow plains begin
There by themselves two trees
Are touching limbs
The woman-tree, she is small
The man-tree, he is tall
And she stands before the wind
So he won't fall
Underground their roots entwine
She a spruce and he a pine
They are one by some
Creator's grand design
One day a southern wind blew
There was nothing she could do
He fell down there beside her
Oh, so straight and true
A young man and his new wife
Cut her down there by his side
And built them both into
The walls of their new life
Now they stand against the wind
Protecting all the love within
Yellow windows in the snow
They are both together again*

Louis Schulte - June 03 at 09:46 PM

AD

“ All our love, Scott and Lynda Daake purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Marcella "Sally" A. Schulte.



All our love, Scott and Lynda Daake - May 31 at 04:25 PM

AD

“ All our love, Scott and Lynda Daake planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marcella "Sally" A. Schulte.

All our love, Scott and Lynda Daake - May 31 at 04:25 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marcella "Sally" A. Schulte.



May 29 at 08:15 PM

DR

“ My heart is broken at the loss of my sweet sister-in-law Her gentle kindness will always be remembered as well as the best dinner rolls I ever tasted Miss you already Sally see you one day in Heaven

DeAnn Richter - May 29 at 04:17 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Marcella "Sally" A. Schulte.



May 29 at 01:35 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Marcella "Sally" A. Schulte.



May 28 at 02:14 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Marcella "Sally" A. Schulte.



May 28 at 11:35 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marcella "Sally" A. Schulte.

May 28 at 11:35 AM

RF

“ Rick & Deann Richter & family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Marcella "Sally" A. Schulte.



Rick & Deann Richter & family - May 27 at 02:28 PM

RF

“ Rick & Deann Richter & family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marcella "Sally" A. Schulte.

Rick & Deann Richter & family - May 27 at 02:28 PM