



## Mary E Hakanson

November 23, 1950 - January 18, 2020

Mary E. Hakanson, 69, of Kearney, died Saturday, January 18, 2020 at her home. Please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Arrangements are under the direction of Horner Lieske McBride and Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney.

Mary Elaine (Dillman) Hakanson was born in Riverton, Wyoming on November 23, 1950 to Merle Clayton and Lora Lillian Davis Dillman. In addition to Wyoming, she spent her younger years in Kentucky, Illinois and Michigan until the family settled in Ong, NE. She attended school in Ong and Shickley.

Mary was wed to Steve Hakanson in Edgar, NE, and they made their home in Kearney. To their union were born Steve Jr, Theodore and Rebecca.

Mary worked for West Pharmaceuticals for more than 40 years. During that time, she was very active in the union. She helped organize and recruit for the union on a local, regional and national level. She held many different offices and board seats during that time.

Mary was also proud of her involvement in the Democratic Party, where she held board seats as well. She would proudly tell anyone about the times she worked on presidential, senatorial, and gubernatorial campaigns. She formed lasting relationships working on the political front.

Mary eagerly organized family events and always had gifts for the children. She enjoyed traveling, making new friends, spending time with her large extended family and spoiling her beloved dog Mollie, who brought her great

joy. She was always eager to reminisce; her stories were humorously embellished and never-ending. Known for her cooking and baking expertise, Mary collected and shared recipes and often gifted baking supplies. She was the baking lady for work, charities, church and family for decades generously serving up joy to friends and family.

Left to cherish her memory are her daughter Becky and fiancé Tony Windsor of St Louis, MO, her beloved dog Mollie, and her large family: Sisters Tereca Diffenderfer of Lincoln, Merle Anne (Edwin) of Grand Island, Connie (Doug) Washburn of San Jose, CA, and her brothers Clyde (Ranee) Dillman of Hastings, Dale (Mary) Dillman of Kearney, and Mark (Deb) Dillman of Aurora, MO. Her in laws include Vicki (Roger) Abel of Castle Rock, CO, Skip Hakanson of Winston Salem, NC, Cathy (Art) Paus of Ocala, FL, Randy (Sally) Hakanson of St Louis, MO, and Sue Hakanson of Lincoln and 76 nieces and nephews.

Mary was preceded in death by her mother, father and beloved sons Steve and Teddy.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary E Hakanson*

---

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of her passing! Thoughts and prayers to the family!!!*



---

**Jody Richmond** - January 24, 2020 at 10:02 PM

DD

“ Mary had the best laugh and the best sense of humor! She loved her nieces and nephews so so much!! Tonight when looking for pictures of Mary, I came across notes I had written down about one of Mary's adventures. It was in 1996 and we were living in New Jersey. Mary brought Mikie to visit us. One of the things she did while visiting was to buy all of us tickets to a Mets game. After the game, the kids got to run the bases and got free t-shirts. It was then that the real adventure began! Our car broke down just outside the parking lot so Mary decided to take the kids and catch a train back to New Jersey while Mark and I waited for a tow truck and found a place to take the car. While walking to the subway that would take them to the train station, they ran into a group of baseball players and the kids got autographs on their t-shirts. Once they got from Queens, New York to Chatham, New Jersey, it was dark and they still had 1 1/2 miles to go on foot. Mary had to rely on 8 year old Katie to lead them in the dark back to our house. Fortunately, Katie has a very good sense of direction. They made it back to the house and all had the greatest time!! Mary was always a good sport and game for just about anything. Our hearts of full of love for you, Mary!

---

**Deb Dillman** - January 24, 2020 at 02:45 AM

M(

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I met Mary when she was very small at my Grammas house where her folks were visiting ( her mama and I were 1st cousins). I have gotten to know Mary in recent years via Facebook. I have really enjoyed “visiting” with her and sharing information with her. Please accept my sincere condolences.  
Cousin Marie Lockett

---

**marie Lockett (cousin)** - January 22, 2020 at 10:38 PM

CW

“ I guess my cooking days are over. When I cooked or baked, I usually ran into trouble and would call Mary. Mary taught me about shampoo, shoes, buying good quality USA goods, and how to shop the internet. She was my 2nd mom and will feel the loss on a weekly basis until I meet her in heaven. Look forward to holding Teddy and laughing with Steven again.

---

**Connie Washburn** - January 22, 2020 at 10:12 PM

AB

“ Mary was my Beautiful Friend for over 40 years. Our long distance relationship was hours over the phone. I cannot believe she is gone. She taught me how to cook. I am so thankful I got to see her in the fall last yr. I loved her and Mollie and will miss her soo much. I hope Beckie Stays in contact with me. She is my girl too love you all. Mary was so proud of her Family and it is a beautiful. Family. My Heart is with you all Love you guys. We all have lost one of the Best

---

**Annalee Benedict** - January 22, 2020 at 09:21 PM

SL

“ Aunt Mary was always such a joy to be around! She will truly be missed by everyone she knew! Her laughter and love for family were contagious! ❤️ I'll never forget our trips to NYC or St. Louis. She loved talking about her family, playing games and cooking for others! She was strong and fought her way back home and I know this gave her a sense of peace! We all loved her dearly and I'm grateful we will always be able to reminisce and share in the love she passed forward!

---

**Sarah Lade** - January 22, 2020 at 09:19 PM

DD

“ *I just keep thinking about that milk jug.....makes me smile  
and the graduation dinner for Becky in St Louis*

---

**DEBRA DELORENZO** - January 22, 2020 at 09:11 PM