



## Mary E. Kolstad

July 3, 1934 - February 18, 2021

Mary E. Kolstad, loving mother, grandmother, sister and aunt, age 86, formerly of Kearney, passed away from cancer, Thursday, February 18, 2021 in Kansas City, Missouri. Funeral services will be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 3910 22nd Avenue, Kearney, NE on Friday, February 26, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. with Pastor Chad Anderson officiating. Burial will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Due to ongoing covid-related precautions mask wearing will be required during the service. The service will also be available via live stream at <https://youtu.be/qYqOY6GwihU>

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting donations be made either to the Dr. Ole A. Kolstad Memorial Scholarship Fund or the Kearney Jubilee Center. Scholarship donations can be made online (<https://nufoundation.org/fund/01064030/>) or by check payable to the University of Nebraska Foundation, 214 West 39th Street, Kearney, NE 68845 (note in the memo: Dr. Ole A. Kolstad Memorial Scholarship Fund). Donations to the Jubilee Center can be made online (<https://kearneyjubilee.org>) in memory of Mary E. Kolstad. Please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney is in charge of arrangements.

Mary was born July 3, 1934 in Fowler Colorado. She was married August 4, 1956. Her husband Ole preceded her in death in 1996. Together, they had 3 children: Jill, Joni and Jari.

“If we just do things for ourselves, we’re never going to be happy. You don’t know what real joy is until you do something for someone.” These were Mary’s words, and her approach to life. While a resident in Kearney, Nebraska (her home from 1965 to 2017) she was an active supporter of the Kearney Jubilee Center (a ministry for and with poor and oppressed people), Kearney Head Start (where she worked as Parent Coordinator for 13 years) and traveled twice to Haiti with “Water4Haiti” (a non-denominational ministry providing clean water to residents of Haiti).

Mary earned a two-year degree from McPherson College and taught at North Diamond rural school in Galva, Kansas in 1957 and at the Glade Country School in Glade, Kansas from 1958-1959. Later, she earned a B.A. in education from Kearney State College in 1986. Mary enjoyed teaching Spanish to children and did so at both the Zion Lutheran and Faith Christian schools in Kearney, Nebraska.

Her three daughters and 10 grandchildren survive her: Jill Brown (Jeff) of Kansas City MO, Patrick Brown (Karleen) of McPherson Kansas, Victoria Brown and Catherine Brown of Kansas City MO; Joni Heiliger (Randy) of Lincoln NE, Jacob Heiliger (Becca) of Omaha NE, Joshua Heiliger (Anyia) of Waddell AZ and Jordan Starkel (Beau) of Omaha NE; Jari Holliday (Geoff) of Aurora NE, Jarid Holliday (Samantha) of Lincoln NE, Mikayla Miller (Dalton) of Bemidji MN, Hunter Holliday and Hailey Holliday of Aurora NE. She is also survived by her sister Linda Sigala (Tony) of Arnold MO and four great grandchildren.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Previous Events

## Funeral Service

FEB **26**. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Trinity Presbyterian Church  
3910 22nd Avenue  
Kearney, NE 68845  
<http://tpckearney.org>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary E. Kolstad*

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January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Peace Eternal Wreath was purchased for the family of Mary E. Kolstad.*



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February 25, 2021 at 01:52 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary E. Kolstad.*



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February 25, 2021 at 12:28 PM

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“ Kolstad family,

*Mary was a neighbor on #6 Crestview Place for many years and she and our Mother enjoyed visiting. I had the pleasure to work with Mary on a committee when she worked for MID NE Community many years ago. Mary was such a loving, caring and gentle soul. May wonderful memories of a life well lived help you through.*



*Tammey (Elliott) Frick, Kearney*

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**Tammey Frick** - February 22, 2021 at 02:06 PM

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“ *RIP Sweet Mary...thank you for sharing your knowledge, thank you for teaching me some of my heritage through folklore dance. I will cherish your memory always.* 🙏 ✨ 💕

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**Heather Chacón (Zapata)** - February 20, 2021 at 08:15 PM

KG

“ *Our condolences to Mary's family. A delightful, loving Christian woman. She had the ability to show people her love and caring for them. I met her at church many years ago. It was a joy and blessing to have known Mary. Thank you for sharing her with the world. Kathy Ganz*

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**Kathleen Ganz** - February 19, 2021 at 08:09 PM