



Roberta 'Bobbie' J. McKenzie

August 24, 1936 - February 16, 2022

Roberta 'Bobbie' Jean McKenzie, age 85, of Kearney, passed away Sunday, February 13, 2022 at Good Samaritan Society St. John's in Kearney. Memorial services will be at a later date. Memorials are suggested to the University of Nebraska Foundation, Bobbie McKenzie Scholarship Fund. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services is in charge of arrangements.

Roberta Jean "Bobbie" Holt McKenzie was born August 24, 1936 in West Point, Ne, the eldest child born to Dorothy and Robert Holt. Her childhood years were spent primarily in West Point and Blair.

She graduated Blair High School in Blair, NE. in 1952. She attended University of Nebraska, earning her bachelor's degree in 1956. She also attended the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

She married Donald McKenzie of Alma on July 21, 1960. They restored and lived in their Pioneer neighborhood home for 48 years. Bobbie was a devoted wife and mother. Her children, Sandi and Kirk, were blessed with a mother who was loving, creative and perpetually involved in school extra-curricular activities, sports, Camp Fire Girls and Boy Scouts. She taught English and journalism at Kearney High School for 11 years and served as faculty advisor of the Quill and Scroll, LOG yearbook and ECHO newspaper. She continued her education earning her master's degree in education in 1976 from Kearney State and taught Photojournalism and Advertising at Kearney State College until she retired in 1996 after serving over 38 years teaching in the Kearney community. She was the recipient of many teaching awards and had a particular reputation for challenging students.

Bobbie served tirelessly the Chi Omega sorority, PEO, DAR, the Frank House, Trolley, the United Way as well as neighborhood/Pioneer Neighborhood preservation committees. Her passion for family history and genealogy found her devoting hours of painstaking research and logging thousands of miles compiling, contributing and authoring books on the Boyer, Holt, Bystrom, and McKenzie lineages.

Her green thumb resulted in not only beautiful houseplants, but thriving forsythia, lilac, pussy willow and peonies she enjoyed so much. TGIF, potluck, birthday groups were always looked forward to.

Bobbie is survived by her husband Donald of Kearney; her daughter Sandi of Charleston, SC; granddaughter Kari and her husband Robert Griffin of Columbia SC; her great grandchildren Elizabeth, Robert and Ada; granddaughter Molly and her husband Timothy Tate of Colorado Springs CO; and granddaughter Sarah Jones of Charleston SC; her son Kirk McKenzie and his wife, Nicky of Kearney, NE. She is survived also by her sister Patricia of Madrid, Spain, sister Mary of Phoenix, AZ, sister Lynnea of Phoenix, AZ and brother Kerry of Phoenix, AZ.

She was preceded in death by her father Robert Holt, her mother Dorothy Boyer Holt Wangberg and her stepfather Stanley Wangberg.

Cemetery Details

Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I
Kearney, NE 68847

Events

Details are pending.

Tribute Wall



“ *Roberta 'Bobbie' J. McKenzie*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *I had Bobby for my journalism teacher at Kearney High. She always had so much energy and it was a joy to be in her class. I still picture her climbing a pole by the football field with a camera around her neck to get a fantastic shot. She touched many young lives in such a positive way. Condolences to her family.*
Trudy Martin Else

Trudy Martin Else - February 18, 2022 at 09:44 PM



“ *Bobbie was a great friend and a great neighbor. She taught me a lot about the Pioneer Neighborhood and in my house in particular. Always willing to help with a project and always willing to put in the time to make it great. My heart hurts for your family. Bobbie and Don both taught me valuable lessons in life.*

Matthew Meister - February 18, 2022 at 03:18 PM



“ *Bobbie was one of my all-time favorite high school teachers. I loved my time on the Log staff. When we moved back to Kearney, I also loved my time with her on the Friends of the Frank House Board and the fun times with the unfortunately short-lived Mid-Nebraska Mortar Board Alumni Chapter. Please know her family is in my thoughts and prayers.*
---Mary McKinney Kommers and family

Mary S Kommers - February 17, 2022 at 11:33 PM



“ *Bobbie was one of my favorite teachers at KSC. I learned so much from her about photography and journalism. She was a great lady and a great teacher... and we had such fun with her.*
Diane Stork Feldman
Class of 1978

Diane Feldman - February 17, 2022 at 05:34 PM

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“ I had Ms. McKenzie for many of my journalism classes at KSC/UNK. She was a wonderful lady, a fabulous mentor and amazing instructor. Her classes were some of the most valuable learning experiences I had in college. She will be greatly missed. My prayers to her family.

Kelly Langrehr

KSC/UNK Advertising graduate - Class of 1993

Kelly Langrehr - February 17, 2022 at 12:33 PM