



Joan Erickson

December 1, 1926 - February 13, 2020

Ruth "Joan" Erickson, age 93 of Chanute, KS passed away on Thursday, February 13, 2020 in Eureka, KS. She was born on December 1, 1926 in Chanute, KS, the daughter of Russell A. and Ethel Lindsey Reno. She attended Chanute schools, graduating from high school in 1944 and NCCC 1946. Joan married John E. Erickson on May 5, 1950. He passed away on February 8, 2007. They resided in Chanute their entire lives.

Joan retired from HB Industry in 1992 after 21 years. She was a lifetime member of Otterbein United Methodist Church, serving in several capacities, including many years as financial secretary and director of Otterbein Food Pantry.

Joan is survived by

Son:

Jeffrey and wife Marilyn

Daughters:

Kathryn Klauman

Jennifer Erickson

Kerry Erickson

Kristina Erickson

Grandchildren:

Colonel Russell and wife Mistie Klauman

Chad Klauman and fiancé Miranda
Amanda (Erickson) Arguelles and husband Arthur
Great Grandchildren:
Stacy and Katelyn Klauman
Robert, Leighton and Mandi Klauman

Aliyana, Axavier and Amilya Ruth Arguelles
Great-Great Grandchildren:
Alice Klauman
Sister:
Treva Mercer

She is preceded in death by her sister, Roxana Stemple and great grandson,
Chad Michael Klauman.

A visitation will be held on Monday, February 24, 2020 from 4 p.m. – 6 p.m. at
Countryside Funeral Home Johnson Chapel in Chanute, KS. Funeral service
will be on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 10 a.m. at Otterbein United
Methodist Church in Chanute, KS. Burial will follow at Memorial Park
Cemetery in Chanute. Online condolences may be left at: www.countrysidefh.com.
The family suggests memorials to be made to Otterbein United
Methodist Church and may be left with or mailed to them. Arrangements have
been entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home, 101 N. Highland, Chanute, KS
66720.

Cemetery Details

Memorial Park Cemetery

E.. 14th St.
Chanute, KS 66720

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **24.** 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Johnson Chapel
101 N. Highland
Chanute, KS 66720
(620) 431-1220
<https://www.countrysidefh.com>

Service

FEB **25.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Otterbein United Methodist Church
631 W. 7th
Chanute, KS 66720

Tribute Wall

“ Mother wrote her own obituary shortly after we buried our Dad. As you can see it is just the facts, bare minimum. She was so much more.

She was raised by a single mother, widowed with three small girls under the age of four. She was raised by a mother with tremendous faith. As taught by her mother she was also of tremendous faith.

She, as her mother, tithed every bit of HER income. She was giving of her service and talents to her church. She was very proud that her great grandparents were some of the original founders of the church in Chanute, originally the Evangelical United Brethren Church and later merged with the United Methodist Church known today as the Otterbein United Methodist Church. She spent many hours in service as the church financial recording secretary. She spent every Sunday evening recording the offerings and was distraught if for some odd reason she would be delayed in having the funds deposited in the bank on Monday morning. She was always active in the church board meetings and sat on and chaired many of the committees over the years. The memorial committee was one of her favorites. She spent many years working and then director of the food pantry. It was like running a small grocery store, she did everything including buying the groceries and stocking the shelves, picking up pizza two days a week from the pizza hut and bagging it for individuals, to defrosting the refrigerators.

As a young girl, she enjoyed school and was an excellent student later earning a scholarship to go to JUCCO here in Chanute. Her favorite teacher was Mr. Hemphill, math teacher. Hence her favorite subject was math. Mother ALWAYS read the entire paper. She told the story of having a teacher who had a daily quiz of what as in the newspaper. The quiz included national and local news as well as the comics and what Mr. Jones had for sale in the classified. What a wonder teaching tool and instilling a lifelong habit.

Her first job was working at the snack bar and later the ticket window at the Main Street Theater. She worked at the City Clerk's office too. If you asked her in the last few years where she worked her reply was always Calvert's. Calvert's was a lovely dry goods department store owned by Calvert and Marjorie Pierpont. She

loved the Pierponts and they treated her as family. Once she had children she would work at Calvert's during the holidays and inventory time for funds to buy Christmas presents for us. She always enjoyed being there. When we were older she was the store manager for Reed's department store (previously Calvert's). Then as accountant for HBD here in Chanute from which she retired after 21 years.

One thing many people wouldn't know about my mother is how much she loved to ride on the back of a motorcycle. When Mom and Dad were "courting" and first married my Dad had a motorcycle and a group of friends that rode together. My Dad always carried a camera under his seat on his cycle and has many pictures of the group on their motorcycles together. Even later in life they loved to jump on the cycle and ride in the hills of the Ozarks.

Mom and Dad were married in 1950 and were blessed with five children. Faith and family were their first priority. We grew up in the time of simple fun and family games. We always celebrated holidays, birthdays and everyday good times with our cousins Jim and Sherry Stemple on mom's side and Jim and Paul Morris and families' on Dad side. Memories of homemade ice cream, fireworks, fireflies in jars, tag, hide and seek and good times had by all. Grammy Reno was always with us and we treasured our time with her.

When we were young our vacations were camping trips. We would go to the lake and set up camp (big tent for the girls and Mom and a pup tent for Dad and Jeff). We always had a great time. I went camping once when I was grownup without my parents and I said never again, it was a lot of work.

Jennifer Erickson - February 19, 2020 at 01:41 AM

LC

I am so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. I have many fond memories of coming to your house and spending time. She always had a smile and made me feel welcome in her home. What a wonderful lady. I know she will be missed. My deepest condolences to your family.

Linda Carter - February 24, 2020 at 11:26 AM

BG

A beautiful tribute, Jennifer. I was late in learning of your mom's passing. She was a wonderful person, salt of the earth. My family and I had the utmost respect for her. I am so sorry for your loss and for the subsequent loss of Kathy.

Bobbie Briley Gish - March 15, 2020 at 02:37 AM

MS

“*Oh Joan, I love you so much! Even though I hadn't known you very long at Heritage, I became so close to you! Rest in Peace beautiful. I will see you again! Now you can color all day long!*”

Mitzi Schoenhofer - February 17, 2020 at 04:12 PM

“ I remember so many childhood memories with my Grandma. She would always make things so fun for me when I would come to visit. I always loved going to church with her on Sunday's and volunteering in the food pantry. She loved to sing all the hymns and I loved to join along. When I was younger she would always love introduce me to everyone at church and when I had my own daughter she was even more proud to introduce her to everyone. I remember family Christmas'. My Grandma loved to decorate with her little villages and special Christmas tree ornaments. She always made it so special! I loved the fudge she would make. She would cross-stitch stockings for all of us. I loved sitting around the table with family and the stool she had just for me to sit in. I remember playing games with everyone in the evening. Just spending time as a family.

I would go and visit in the summer growing up. I remember they didn't have air conditioning and so she would take me to the swimming pool during the day to cool off. She would watch from the bleachers. I remember her telling me it's because she didn't like to swim. She sure enjoyed watching me though!

I remember the special closet where she kept games, coloring books, and the photo albums she made us. She would play the game Sorry! with me over and over. She would color with me in coloring books. I always remember how nice and pretty her side of the page looked. I always loved looking through the photo albums she made as I grew up. That's something I will always cherish having now.

I remember car rides around Chanute and her honking the horn under the tunnel every time just to make me smile.

She loved sewing and cross-stitching. She made me a wedding dress when I was young and I dreamed of one day getting married. When that day came she loved my husband just as much. She would make his favorite, pecan pie, when we would visit.

I remember baking with her when I was little. She loved to teach me. She also loved making special pancakes in whatever shape I would choose for breakfast. In her kitchen she had a plastic apple where she would keep little candies for me to find.

I remember going camping with grandparents as a little girl. I loved going for walks with my Grandma and their dog Midge. I remember on the door of their motor home they had a map of the United States. I remember dreaming of traveling. Now that my husband is in the Army we have gotten to do just that. We've lived places I would have only dreamt of. Although it's been harder to visit her the last few years. She never got the chance to meet our youngest. I chose her middle name after her though, that's how important she was in my life. I will truly miss her. I am so thankful for all the memories!

Amanda Arguelles - February 17, 2020 at 12:28 AM

“ Mother was a skilled seamstress, as she was taught by our Grandmother, Ethel Reno. Mom made all of our clothes. I remember sitting for hours on the tall stools at the Calvert’s pattern counter choosing the perfect pattern, then choosing fabric and embellishments. She would figure to the last inch how much fabric was required to finish the garment, never just buying the amount the pattern said was required, as it was always way too much. She always allowed having a busy fabric such as plaid to match the seams perfectly so that you would not even realize a seam was there. I still look at a store bought shirts and cringe at what my mother would say about the seams not matching. I remember once picking out a fabric and a pattern and her grabbing a piece of paper to figure out how much fabric to buy and talking out loud to herself and that using pi was included in her calculations. Who said math didn’t come in handy in everyday life? Sometimes she would even take the pattern home and lay it out on newspaper to determine the exact amount of fabric required. All of our dolls were fashionable dressed with complete wardrobes and many times matching our own dresses.

Mother was always involved in our school and after school activities. She was den mother for the boy scouts, always participated in our girl scouts, PTA and class mother at school. We always had creative treats to hand out at school for our birthdays. I remember one year she made little covered wagons out of snicker bars using lifesavers at wheels.

We always had unique if not elaborate costumes for Halloween, the Pet and Bike Parade, Christmas programs and any other event that required one. She could make a costume from nothing but boxes and fabric.

Birthdays were always fun whether just celebrating with family or having friends over. I remember one birthday party at Highland Park with my friends and a beautiful butterfly shaped cake that she had made.

Mother was not a physically or verbally demonstrative person, but through her actions and daily deeds she told us every day how much she loved us.

Jennifer S Erickson - February 16, 2020 at 10:10 PM

JE

“ continued

Later in life they purchased an RV and enjoyed camping and traveling by RV. Their favorite times were meeting Jeff, Marilyn and Amanda at a lake and camping with them. Many times they would take Russ and Chad with them. I loved when they would come out to Colorado and join me on their trip. There was no greater love and joy of that in which they had for their grandchildren and great grandchildren. They loved traveling to visit friends and family in their RV. They enjoyed trips around the country and abroad with Kris. Mother loved to watch college basketball. For years her favorite was K-State and after her favorite coach retired, she moved over to KU. She was thrilled to be able to attend some the championship games with Dad. Later Mom would enjoy going to KU games with Mary Etta Taylor. Mary Etta had season tickets and was generous in sharing with Mom. Grandson Russ said he wanted to remember his grandmother going with Mary Etta to a KU football game in the middle of an ice storm and wondering why we were all upset they traveled in the storm. They had a great time.

We can't forget politics. What I learned from my mother about politics. When I was young I overhear my Dad asking Mom who she voted for. Her reply was firm, but polite, "it was none of his business the voting booth is private for a reason". At the time they actually had big machines with curtains that closed around them and I remember standing inside the curtains while she voted.

Jennifer Erickson - February 15, 2020 at 11:46 PM

BG

I loved every word of your tribute, Jennifer. Your mom had a life very well lived. I offer my deepest sympathy to you.

Bobbie Briley Gish - March 15, 2020 at 02:47 AM