



## Ruth Eileen Watts

May 7, 1942 - September 26, 2024

Ruth Eileen Watts, age 82 of Howard, Kansas, passed away Thursday, September 26, 2024 in Augusta, Kansas.

Ruth was born May 7, 1942 in Upland, Nebraska, the daughter of Walter and Clara (Woods) Chittenden. As a young girl, her family moved to Virgil, Kansas where she would graduate from Virgil High School in the class of 1960.

On August 22, 1962, Ruth married Kenneth Watts in Eureka, Kansas. They lived in Hamilton and Tonavay area, and in 1969 moved to Howard. Together, they raised 2 children and were married 42 years, until his passing in 2004.

Over the years, Ruth wore many hats. She owned her own ceramic shop in Howard for several years, drove a school bus for West Elk schools from 1972 to 1983, and then went to work as a tax preparer for several years before retiring. But even then, she continued driving a bus for the Elk County Council on Aging for a while. She was active in the Prairielands Food Pantry, the Jolly Janes Organization, was on the Elk County Fair Board for many years and was a member of the United Methodist Church in Howard. She even travelled around to fairs, judging the ceramic division for 4-H.

She enjoyed crocheting, diamond art, playing bingo and making fresh ice cream for her family. And if she heard there was a new baby on the way, she

would get busy making a baby blanket for the new baby.

Ruth is survived by her daughter, Christy Tyler (Don Smith) of Howard, KS

Grandchildren: Kenny Tyler and wife Miranda of Derby, KS, Billy Tyler (Paxton Kerley) of Howard, KS, and Heather Houchin and husband Ben of Howard, KS

11 great-grandchildren

Brothers: David Chittenden and wife Wanda of Topeka, KS, Leroy Chittenden and wife Sue of Louisville, TN

Sister, Mary Boyer of Leavenworth, KS

Sister-in-Law, Ardell Watts of Afton, OK

Caregivers, Keisha, Christina, and Liz

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Kenneth, and son Tom.

A memorial service to honor Ruth will be held at 11:00 AM on Friday, October 4, 2024 at Countryside Funeral Home in Howard, KS. The family will receive friends at visitation from 10:00 AM until service time.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Elk County Community Foundation for Howard projects and may be mailed to or left with the funeral home.

Services entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home, 206 E. Washington, PO Box 1233, Howard, KS 67349



# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 4. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Howard  
206 E. Washington  
P.O. Box 1233  
Howard, KS 67349  
(620) 374-2381

## Memorial Service

OCT 4. 11:00 AM (CT)

Countryside Funeral Home - Howard  
206 E. Washington  
P.O. Box 1233  
Howard, KS 67349  
(620) 374-2381

# Tribute Wall

JP

“ *Jane Peavy lit a candle in memory of Ruth Watts*



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**Jane Peavy** - October 03, 2024 at 06:53 PM

SH

“ *Stefni Hebb lit a candle in memory of Ruth Watts*



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**Stefni Hebb** - October 02, 2024 at 09:56 AM

PH

“ *Her caring spirit to help others in and beyond the county. She would volunteer to assist in any way she possibly could with various agencies such as community thanksgiving dinner, senior bus driver, and various senior centers. Fond memories working with her in the communities of Elk County. Prayers for the families.*



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**PASTor Robin and Kathy Haines** - September 30, 2024 at 10:58 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of Ruth Eileen Watts.*



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September 30, 2024 at 09:11 AM



“ *Jane Vinette planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Eileen Watts.*

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**Jane Vinette** - September 30, 2024 at 09:11 AM



“ *Chip&Nancy Crum lit a candle in memory of Ruth Watts*



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**Chip&Nancy Crum** - September 27, 2024 at 02:45 PM