



Ruthe Ann Steele

November 2, 1944 - December 11, 2024

Ruthe Steele left this world a little better place for having lived in it. She was loved by so many.

Ruthe was born Nov. 2, 1944, in Chanute, KS, to Viola and Everett Olson. They lived on a farm about 6 miles west of Chanute in a Swedish community named Vilas, KS. She had two older sisters, Marie (Olson) Larson, Natchitoches, LA, and Jean (Olson) Anderson, Meriden, KS, and a younger sister, Gloria (Olson) Loucif, Alvor, Portugal.

Ruthe attended Sorghum Valley Grade School, was a member of the Vilas Vikings 4-H Club, and graduated from Midway High School, Buffalo, KS. Ruthe earned a nursing degree from Trinity Lutheran School of Nursing in Kansas City. She married Gary Steele in 1965. Their daughter, Leslie, was born on July 13, 1978. Ruthe worked as a nurse in several different hospitals, nursing homes and grade schools. She attended Unity Church in Topeka, KS, and was a volunteer for her daughter's 4-H Club in Grantville, KS.

A huge animal lover, Ruthe was a vegetarian and had many cherished fur friends over the years. She was a passionate advocate for the humane treatment of animals everywhere.

Later in her career, Ruthe went back to school to become a teacher of

students with visual impairments. Her dedication to students and kids everywhere was legendary. Ruthe worked for Chautauqua County Unified School District #286 until she retired. Ruthe loved to visit her grown daughter wherever she lived and traveled to Australia, New York, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Diego.

Ruthe lived in Howard, KS, for over 20 years, where she had many friends. Some of her favorite things to do included walks with her dog, yoga classes and getting a double chocolate malt at Toots Drive-In.

Ruthe died on Dec. 11, 2024, with her daughter, Leslie, by her side.

A memorial service to honor Ruthe will be held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at Countryside Funeral Home in Howard, KS.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Chautauqua County Animal Shelter in Sedan, KS, and can 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

Memorial Service

DEC 17. 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall

AV

“ It was always a joy for me to drive once a week from Wichita to Sedan to share teaching experiences with Ruthe and her visually-impaired students. She was one of the kindest and most-loving people I have ever met. Alvin Vopata.

Alvin Vopata - February 20, 2025 at 03:13 PM

JC

“ Ruthe was love and grace personified. She was such a healer of the world. Her kindness and care for humans as well as animals is unsurpassed. She lived a life of service for others, and made a huge difference in our world. I will never forget the times I rode with her and she pulled over to put a turtle safely across the road. She touched so many lives and will forever be missed.

Jeanette Carter - December 19, 2024 at 07:52 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Countryside Funeral Home - December 19, 2024 at 06:17 PM

CK

“ Ruthie was a very generous person. She helped many students and other vision teachers that needed help.

carolyn kerstetter - December 16, 2024 at 08:01 PM

NT

“ *Ruthe was one of the best people on the planet. It was an honor to know her!* ”

Nate T - December 16, 2024 at 04:10 PM

LM

“ *Love, Lack family- Mark + Miriam purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Ruthe Ann Steele.* ”



Love, Lack family- Mark + Miriam - December 15, 2024 at 05:35 PM

LM

“ *Love, Lack family- Mark + Miriam planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Ruth Ann Steele.* ”

Love, Lack family- Mark + Miriam - December 15, 2024 at 05:35 PM

CC

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



Chip&Nancy Crum - December 13, 2024 at 03:49 PM

JM

Ruthie was a sweet lady with so many stories to share. She would often stop by the ECCA office just to say hello and visit for a few minutes. She will be missed by all her knew her.

Joan Murphy - December 16, 2024 at 04:27 PM

RF

Ruthie was a dear kind loving and caring friend at Unity Church of Christianity in Topeka KS. We loved her so much for many years. She will be greatly missed. We send our deepest condolences to Leslie & her family. You are all in our thoughts & prayers.

Roberta & Edward Fischer - December 20, 2024 at 01:39 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ruth Ann Steele.

December 13, 2024 at 02:14 PM



“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Ruthe Ann Steele.



December 13, 2024 at 02:14 PM

BN

“ We will miss you Ruthie



Bob & Judy Nungesser - December 13, 2024 at 11:46 AM