



Betty Jo Kruse

September 23, 1942 - December 24, 2025

Betty Jo (Guthmann) Kruse, 83, of Grand Island passed away peacefully on Wednesday, December 24, 2025.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, January 2nd at Resurrection Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Grand Island City Cemetery. There is a visitation at the church on Thursday, from 5-7 p.m. with a Rosary at 7:00. Memorials are suggested to the family to be designated later. All Faiths Funeral Home is serving the family.

Betty was born in Grand Island on September 23, 1942, the daughter of Joseph and Wilma (Warner) Guthmann. She grew up in Grand Island, graduating from Central Catholic High School in 1960. Betty attended Kearney State College, earning bachelor's degrees in Home Economics and Art. She was a founding member of Chi Omega sorority while at Kearney State. Betty went on to teach both Home Economics and Art. After the girls had grown, she spent almost 30 years teaching preschool, first at Grace Lutheran and then at Peace Lutheran Preschool. She also occasionally substituted for Grand Island Public Schools. She found her true calling teaching as she loved children.

She was married to Gary Kruse from 1968 to 1986, and together they raised three daughters.

Betty enjoyed doing so many things. Her creative, artistic side was evident in the time spent with her beloved grandchildren as they crafted, baked, had tea parties, and played together. Betty loved to cross stitch, crochet, and knit, making many treasured pieces for family and friends. She also knitted prayer shawls for children and anyone in need. She was an avid reader, always with a book nearby and enjoyed traveling.

Those who cherish her memory include her daughters and their families, Amy (Robert) Almquist and their children, Dylan, Kara, Evan, and Payden; Jennifer (Cameron) McCarthy and their children, Thomas, Natalya, and Jacoby; and Michelle (Eric) Heilig and their children, Charlotte and Ethan.

She is also survived by three brothers, Jim (Nancy) Guthmann, Dick (Sharon) Guthmann, and John (Lanette) Guthmann.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents.

Cemetery Details

Grand Island Cemetery

3168 W Stolley Park Rd
Grand Island, NE 68801-7203

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Resurrection Catholic Church
4110 Cannon Rd
Grand Island, NE 68803

Rosary

JAN 1. 7:00 PM (CT)

Resurrection Catholic Church
4110 Cannon Rd
Grand Island, NE 68803

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 2. 10:00 AM (CT)

Resurrection Catholic Church
4110 Cannon Rd
Grand Island, NE 68803

Tribute Wall

ZF

“ My deepest condolences to you all. Betty and I were Chi Omega sorority sisters while at KSC, attending many classes together. While I moved to the West Coast after graduation, we kept in touch via cards and letters. My children and I visited her and her daughters when she lived in Kearney in 1985. I am deeply sorry for the loss of your mother/grandmother.

Zona Bunger Fredrickson

Zona Fredrickson - January 24 at 08:23 PM

JO

“ I so enjoyed teaching with Betty at Peace Lutheran Preschool. I was sorry to miss her passing. My brother-in-law died on Christmas Day following a vehicle accident. I can imagine Betty welcoming him to their heavenly home.

Prayers of comfort for you girls and your families. I enjoyed listening to the many fun stories of you all. I taught with Betty from 2007 to 2012. We kept in touch through the years eating out with our other co-teacher. Sadly the last few got busy for both of us with family.

That is a good thing though, as we both love our families very much and want the best for them. Blessing to you.

Joy Langrehr

Joy - January 13 at 06:24 PM

NG

“ Our sincere sympathy to you and your families, Amy, Jenny & Michelle. We enjoyed living near your family for many years. We appreciated having you as babysitters. Your mother touched many children and their families in her long career. May your hearts be at peace. God bless you.

Norma & Tony Gauthier

Norma Gauthier - January 07 at 01:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Betty Jo Kruse.*



December 31, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ *Andy, Jamie, AJ, Samantha, & Madelynn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Jo Kruse.*

Andy, Jamie, AJ, Samantha, & Madelynn - December 31, 2025 at 12:58 PM



“ *Sarah Scheer purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Betty Jo Kruse.*



Sarah Scheer - December 31, 2025 at 11:38 AM



“ *John J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Jo Kruse.*

John J. - December 30, 2025 at 02:28 PM



“ *Lan G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Jo Kruse.*

Lan G. - December 29, 2025 at 10:41 PM

TS

“ *Team Michelle-Mikayla, Ally, Cayla & Scott purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Betty Jo Kruse.*



Team Michelle-Mikayla, Ally, Cayla & Scott - December 29, 2025 at 08:29 PM

SL

“ *I met Betty in 1960 as a scared kid who just moved from little Farwell to Grand Island as a junior in high school. She was the first to welcome me into the fold and made me feel ok. What a great friend. She was bridesmaid for our wedding, and we kept in touch all these years. Heaven is getting one of the best. I will miss her terribly. My love to her entire family. Rest well my friend.*

Sandi Laskowski - December 29, 2025 at 08:09 PM

YO

“ *YMCA of Greater Omaha purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Betty Jo Kruse.*



YMCA of Greater Omaha - December 29, 2025 at 03:42 PM

WF

“ *Woods and Logan Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Betty Jo Kruse.*



Woods and Logan Family - December 29, 2025 at 02:16 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Jo Kruse.



December 29, 2025 at 01:32 PM



“ Jim & Deidre planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Betty Jo Kruse.

Jim & Deidre - December 29, 2025 at 01:32 PM