



Charlene Rae Rathjen

January 5, 1944 - August 19, 2018

Charlene R. Rathjen, 74, of Grand Island, died Sunday at CHI- Health St. Francis. Funeral services will be held Friday at 10 a.m., at All Faiths Funeral Home. Reverend Adam Snoberger will officiate. A visitation will be held on Thursday evening from 6-8 p.m. Burial will be at Highland Park Cemetery in Ravenna, NE., following the service.

Charlene was born on January 5, 1944 in Broken Bow, to Orval and Ruth (Hawkins) Kruser. After graduation from Broken Bow High School, she moved to Grand Island to attend the Grand Island School of Business.

She was united in marriage to Ronald Rathjen on August 26, 1974. Following their marriage they lived in Grand Island where they raised their family and Charlene worked as a 911 dispatcher for 30 years.

Charlene loved spending time with her children and grandchildren and is remembered as a loving nurturer. Charlene was a big fan of the Broncos, Huskers, and Cavaliers. She enjoyed crafts, crossword puzzles, collecting her sun jigglers, and crime shows. She was also featured on an episode of "Rescue 911" during her time as a dispatcher.

Those left to cherish her memory are her children, Henry (Sara) Rathjen of Grand Island, Jessica Rathjen of Grand Island, Craig Rathjen of Joplin, MO., Ricky Rathjen of Joplin, MO., Vickie (Pat) Martin of Grand Island, Terri (Will) Lovato of Sheldon, MO; grandchildren, Cami, Brinley, Ramsey, Rider, Rachel, Carley, Matthew, Justin, Stephanie, Rebecca, and Madilynn; 11 great grandchildren; and her sister, Jacqueline (Dennis) Hiatt of Longmont, CO.

Charlene was preceded in death by her husband; parents; her brother, Terry Kruser; and sisters, Marjory Cramer and Barbara Fales.

Memorials are suggested to the family.

Tribute Wall



“ *Charlene Rae Rathjen*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Charlene & I were good friends from kindergarten through 8th grade before my Mother, Ferne Eacker-Piercy was transferred to Albion, NE early my freshman year. She & I spent hours together after school & on Saturday nights when the stores stayed open until 9pm & everyone was out & about. She was full of life, silly & giggly. Sometimes we would go to the Ben Franklin store & get a soda after school. My memories of the time we spent together is still fresh & it saddens my heart to know you have lost such a precious member of your family. You will see her again one day & happiness will once again reign in your heart.*



My deepest condolences.

*Jeannie Ferne Eacker-Piercy Halouska
halouska@comcast.net*

Jeannie Halouska - August 30, 2018 at 12:06 PM



Thanks! I love to hear stories. I am on Facebook and also have control of my Mother's account so feel free to send stories from time to time. I got to hear family stories but not too much about social life. Thanks again -Henry Rathjen (Son)

Henry Rathjen - October 22, 2018 at 05:40 PM

TQ

“ Another Star in Heaven Looking Down on US Prayers & Hugs to Family & Friends!! She was a GREAT LADY & will B MISSED BY ALL!!

Terry Quinn - August 24, 2018 at 09:32 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charlene Rae Rathjen.



August 24, 2018 at 07:17 AM

DS

“ Donald Rathjen, her 1st cousin from California sending our Condolences to her family.



Donald Rathjen SR - August 23, 2018 at 09:29 PM



Thanks Donald!

Henry Rathjen - October 22, 2018 at 05:42 PM

MP

“ Sorry for your loss Henry and Family. May God hold you and heal your hearts. Merna (Bottolfson)Parmenter

Merna Parmenter - August 23, 2018 at 12:40 AM



Thanks Merna.

Henry Rathjen - October 22, 2018 at 05:41 PM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Charlene Rae Rathjen.*



August 22, 2018 at 08:41 PM



“ *Heaven truly has gained another angel Charlene was such a sweet and caring lady. She will be missed by many. Sending prayers of love and strength to the family my the lord wrap his arms around you all at this time and the days to come. Always remember she is still with you always.*
Love The Smidt Family

Crystal Smidt - August 22, 2018 at 01:15 PM



Thanks Guys!

Henry Rathjen - October 22, 2018 at 05:42 PM



“ *I worked with Charlene for a number of years at the 911 center. She taught me to crochet and was good company for the wee hours of the morning. I am sorry for your loss.*

*Lorraine Spindler
Loveland, CO*

Lorraine Spindler - August 22, 2018 at 12:31 PM



Thanks for sharing the memory with us. I love to hear them.

Henry Rathjen - October 22, 2018 at 05:43 PM

MC

*“ We are sorry to hear of Charlene's death. Mike worked with Charlene for years, first as a law enforcement officer and then as a fellow dispatcher. Our sympathy and prayers are with you all. God's peace,
Mike & Deb Cleary*

Mike & Deb Cleary - August 22, 2018 at 11:48 AM



I remember Mike. Thanks Deb

Henry Rathjen - October 22, 2018 at 05:44 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Charlene Rae Rathjen.



August 21, 2018 at 07:38 PM