



Gretchen Davis Eakes

October 12, 1950 - October 11, 2017

Gretchen Davis Eakes, 66, of Grand Island, passed away at home on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 after a four year courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Memorial services will be held at 1:30 p.m. Monday at St. Mary's Cathedral with the Father Charles L. Torpey and Father James O'Kane as Celebrants. There will be no visitation. All Faiths Funeral Home is entrusted with the arrangements.

Gretchen was born October 12, 1950 in Grand Island to James M. and Joan (Witt) Davis. She graduated from Central Catholic High School. She received a BA from the University of Nebraska and was an active member of Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Gretchen went on to earn a Master's degree from the University of Nebraska, Kearney.

On August 18, 1972 she married her high school sweetheart, Daniel H.

Eakes. As a young wife Gretchen taught at Jefferson School from 1972 – 1978 and later was an English instructor at Central Community College.

Gretchen served on the Stuhr Museum Foundation board as Chair Woman and filled several other offices while serving her term. Her other charitable

contributions included the Sheldon Art Gallery Statewide board, St. Francis Auxiliary Board President, Judicial Nominating Commission for Selection of

Judges and Co-Chair of the Best Seat in the House for Grand Island Senior High's Gymnasium. In 1995 Gretchen was named Woman of the Year by the

Grand Island Independent.

Gretchen is survived by her husband, Dan, of forty-five years and her two

sons and their wives, Ben and Melissa Eakes of Dallas, TX and Adam and Leslie Eakes of Fairway, KS; mother, Joan W. Davis, Grand Island, NE; and sister, Anndo Davis of San Francisco, CA. Gretchen also had four wonderful grandchildren, Catherine and Andrew of Dallas, TX and Davis and Meg of Fairway, KS.

Gretchen was an avid reader and belonged to two book clubs. She was active in golf and bridge and spent time in La Quinta, CA gaining many new friends that hailed from all over the United States. Gretchen's capacity for quick wit will be sorely missed.

Gretchen was preceded in death by her father, James M. Davis and her father and mother-in-law, Howard and Gladys Eakes.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the Grand Island Community Foundation, St. Leo's Church, or Stuhr Museum.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT **16**. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Cathedral
112 S Cedar St
Grand Island, NE 68801-5897
(308) 384-2523

Tribute Wall



“ *Gretchen Davis Eakes*

October 08, 2023 at 11:02 PM



“ *Dan and Family..... sending very sincere condolences, prayers and good thoughts to and for very fond and fun memories of Gretchan from Mike and Leslie Marchello Peterson (Phi Delt & Pi Phi 72) Omaha. Very classy and beautiful lady. Prayers and thoughts heading West on 80. Kindest regards, Dan! mp & lp*

mike peterson and leslie peterson - October 20, 2017 at 04:07 PM



“ *Dan, I was so sorry to hear of the death of Gretchen. What a nice person. I have nothing but fond memories of both you and Gretchen. Dennis D Bloom*

Dennis D Bloom - October 17, 2017 at 02:49 PM



“ *Dan, Ben, Adam and families: We are so sorry to hear of Gretchen's passing. May your precious memories of her give you comfort in the days ahead. We are holding you in thought and prayer. Phil and Vicki Maltzahn*

vicki maltzahn - October 16, 2017 at 06:37 PM

CF

“ Our deepest sympathy to Dan, Ben & Adam and families, and her Mother and Sister. I got to know Gretchen and Dan, as my son Brad played on a traveling basketball team with Ben and was in the same grade as Ben through GISH. They always showed such kindness and caring to me and my family. She will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate enough to have had her touch their life in some way. What a wonderful, kind hearted, strong and courageous woman she was. Hugs and prayers to you all. In sympathy, Craig & Sue (Kosmicki) Foss

Craig & Sue (Kosmicki) Foss - October 16, 2017 at 09:52 AM

RK

“ I was in Mrs. Eakes' second class....the first on at the then new Jefferson back in 1973. Her enthusiasm and energy were very inspiring and she always took everything in stride and with grace...even when a couple of students accidentally left a permanent outline of South America on the wall of the brand new building! She certainly left positive mark on my life and my heart goes out to you....she was indeed an amazing lady!

Randy Killham - October 15, 2017 at 04:51 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gretchen Davis Eakes.



October 14, 2017 at 09:09 PM

JM

“ I was also in her first class after college as a 6th grader at Jefferson Elementary. I remember when I was Ebenezer Scrooge in school play and had laryngitis day of performance. She got me through it very well! She was so caring! She also taught us table manners and square dancing! She was a special teacher!

Jim Creech MD - October 14, 2017 at 05:53 PM

GJ

“ Janet and Gary extend our thoughts and prayers to Dan, Ben and Adam and to their families. Gretchen will be missed by all. May she Rest In Peace in the glory of God.

Gary and Janet Janulewicz - October 14, 2017 at 05:21 PM

Russell Kluge

“ So sorry to learn of your loss. It came way too soon. (I was in her 1st class after college at Jefferson).

Russell Kluge - October 14, 2017 at 11:52 AM



“ Dan -
Words cannot describe how truly sorry I am to hear of Gretchen's passing. My heartfelt sympathies go out to you and your family.

*Karen Autrey
Lincoln*

Karen Autrey - October 14, 2017 at 11:33 AM



“ Sening my utmost sorrow. Sorry for your loss.

Robert Dodendorf - October 13, 2017 at 05:44 PM



“ *Dan, Ben, Adam, Joan and the rest of your family. I was deeply saddened to hear of Gretchen's passing. She fought a hard battle. You all can be proud of her fierce fight for life. Sending all of you hugs and prayers. May God give all of you peace during your time of grief.*

Karen and Dave Colan

Karen Colan - October 13, 2017 at 05:16 PM

JN

“ *Joel and Christy Standeven - Hastings, NE purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gretchen Davis Eakes.*



Joel and Christy Standeven - Hastings, NE - October 13, 2017 at 04:35 PM

TL

“ *The employees of Public Safety Supply Resources LLC purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Gretchen Davis Eakes.*



The employees of Public Safety Supply Resources LLC - October 13, 2017 at 02:38 PM

JH

“ Dan, I am so sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Judy Hansen
Omaha

Judy Hansen - October 13, 2017 at 02:08 PM

-M

“ Dan -
You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. May God comfort you and give you peace now.

Warmly, Janet Mayo

-Janet Mayo - October 13, 2017 at 02:04 PM

SS

“ Eakes Family—we are so sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers are sent your way.

Sherry and Wayne Sasges

sherry sasges - October 13, 2017 at 12:22 PM

NR

“ We are so sorry to hear of the loss of Gretchen. We have good memories of being neighbors on Cottonwood Road in Grand Island. Gretchen was a wonderful person and a role model for many. We hold your family in our hearts and in our prayers. Nanette and Doug Redman

Nanette and Doug Redman - October 13, 2017 at 12:03 PM

MM

“ Thoughts and prayers to you, Dan and family. We did not know of Gretchen's condition; so sorry. You are good people and we think of you often. -Mike and Becky Meyer

mike meyer - October 13, 2017 at 11:18 AM

PF

“ Dan & Family,

We send our thoughts and prayers to you and your family. Paul & Cherri Fischer--Colorado Springs, CO.

Paul F Fischer - October 13, 2017 at 11:06 AM

DG

“ So sorry to hear of Gretchen's passing. Dan, my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. May you find comfort in your beautiful memories of her. – Dan Greenberger

Dan Greenberger - October 13, 2017 at 10:34 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gretchen Davis Eakes.



October 12, 2017 at 04:15 PM