



Betty Lou Betka

June 12, 1928 - March 5, 2026

Betty L. Betka, daughter of Vern and Sarah (Kyker) Christiancy, was born June 12, 1928 and passed away peacefully at Fairview Manor March 5, 2026 at the age of 97.

Betty grew up on a farm near Strang, Nebraska. She attended school in Strang with Wynona (Christiancy) Lechtenberger, her cousin and lifelong friend. She graduated from Geneva High School in 1946 and then earned a degree in home economics from the University of Nebraska. She taught school in Geneva for a year. Betty united in marriage to Eugene "Gene" Betka, on June 22, 1952. Betty remembers that during the wedding rehearsal, Eugene asked Rev. Werner if he could kiss the bride. Rev. Werner replied, "If you don't, I will!" This is the year Betty joined the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Geneva where she remained an active member.

Betty and Eugene lived on a farm near Burress where they raised corn, milo, wheat, hogs, sheep, and cattle. Betty drove a grain cart, helped with livestock, and grew big gardens. Eugene and Betty had two sons, Steven and Douglas. Betty substitute taught in Fairmont for a semester in 1963 and served on the Exeter School Board for several years. Betty served on several committees at the church and taught third grade Sunday school. After Eugene's death, Betty moved to Geneva. She was in charge of funeral dinners at the church for many years. During the church's Thanksgiving Dinner fundraiser, Betty was

the “ham glaze expert” Betty also delivered meals on wheels, while continuing to raise a bountiful garden with a green thumb to get extra large tomatoes.

Later in life, Betty’s grandsons and great grandchildren were her greatest joy. She was active in helping her grandsons Derek and Ryan prepare livestock for the Fillmore County fair. After waiting 81 years, she was thrilled to finally be blessed with girls in the family; great granddaughters Kayleigh, Kelsey, Kaitlyn, and Kierstyn and most recently the addition of great grandson Theodore. All were blessed to spend time together and learn from grandma’s hard work and wisdom and enjoy laughs from her quick wit.

Betty was preceded in death by her parents Vern and Sarah, husband Eugene, sons Steven and Douglas and two siblings who passed away in childhood and infancy.

Betty is survived by daughter-in-law Audrey Betka-Mager of Lincoln, NE; grandson Derek and his daughters Kayleigh, Kelsey, Kaitlyn, and Kierstyn of Fairmont, NE; and grandson Ryan, wife Rachel, and their son Theodore of Austin, TX.

A Funeral Service for Betty was held on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Geneva. Pastor Galen Rasmussen presided over the Funeral Service. Stanley Johnson was the organist and he accompanied the congregation in the singing of “Jesus Loves Me” and “Amazing Grace.” The recorded recessional “How Great Thou Art” was played at the conclusion of the Funeral Service.

Pallbearers included Tom Novak, Robert Schropfer, Jim Mager, Mike Motis, Jay Knapp, and Dan Vavra. Honorary Pallbearer included Don Manning.

A Graveside Service was held in the Geneva Public Cemetery following the Funeral Service.

Farmer & Son Funeral Home was in care of the arrangements and online condolences can be left at www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.

Memorials are suggested to the First United Church Of Christ in Geneva, Nebraska.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 6. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home
242 N 10th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
(402) 759-3617
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Family Present for Visitation

MAR 6. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home
242 N 10th Street
Geneva, NE 68361
(402) 759-3617
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 7. 2:00 PM (CT)

First Congregational United Church of Christ
906 H Street
Geneva, NE 68361

Tribute Wall

DS

“ When I lived in Geneva, We always went to the Thanksgiving dinner and we also helped, Betty and I talked the Sunday before about my favorite pie being raisin no sour cream raisin just raisin and I told her I hadn't had one since my Grandma had passed, so she brought me my own raisin pie and it was absolutely wonderful, when I was getting ready to move back to Wyoming I told her that was one of my greatest moments living in Geneva, she was a wonderful woman you all were lucky to have such a great woman in your lives. Rest easy lady you will truly be missed

Dawn Swanson - March 10 at 11:02 PM

EO

“ Elaine Oldehoeft lit a candle in memory of Betty Betka



Elaine Oldehoeft - March 07 at 07:59 PM



“ 21 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - March 07 at 04:25 PM

BT

“ *Barbara Trapp lit a candle in memory of Betty Betka*



Barbara Trapp - March 07 at 10:03 AM

PK

“ *Audrey, Derek and Ryan. My deepest sympathies with the loss of The family Matriarch. I remember Betty as always kind and friendly and extremely proud of her family. She continued showing what she was made of as life dealt her several blows with first the loss of sons, Doug and Steve, at such young ages and Gene, the love of her life. I will always remember her as one of the strongest women I have ever known.*

Paula Kaiser-Asmus - March 06 at 06:50 PM

JF

“ *Jared Roffers and Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Betty Lou Betka.*



Jared Roffers and Family - March 06 at 05:45 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Betty Lou Betka.*



March 06 at 11:54 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Betty Lou Betka.

March 06 at 11:54 AM



“ Holly Rippe lit a candle in memory of Betty Betka



Holly Rippe - March 06 at 08:34 AM



“ I have known Betty all of my life. She worked hard in our church and was at everything our church did. She and Gene sold sheep to our girls when they were in 4H. If the lambs weren't behaving it didn't bother her to grab them and butt them against the wall. I decided then and there that I was going to stay on her good side! She ended up being our neighbour here in town. She was a fine lady. My sympathy to the whole family.

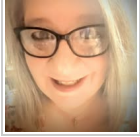
Alice Tatro - March 05 at 08:57 PM



“ Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Betty Betka



Kent & Rose Theobald - March 05 at 08:19 PM



“ *My deepest condolences to the Betka family. I always enjoyed speaking with her outdoors while visiting my grandmother. Betty will be missed deeply.* ”



Janine Uldrich - March 05 at 04:17 PM



“ *Mary O lit a candle in memory of Betty Betka* ”



Mary O - March 05 at 04:13 PM



“ *Barbara Sadd lit a candle in memory of Betty Betka* ”



Barbara Sadd - March 05 at 03:24 PM



“ *Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Betty Betka* ”



Virginia Johnson - March 05 at 03:22 PM

DB

“ I didn't know Betty well, but I recognized her in the grocery store, delivering Meals, at the church's fundraisers, etc. She was always a busy lady. Then later, I was blessed to be able to deliver Meals to her until her move to Fairview Manor. Reading her obituary was like filling in the blanks of her life. May you be blessed with the memories of this hard-working woman who lived her life serving others.

Deb Bixby - March 05 at 02:01 PM

LH

“ Linda Heinisch lit a candle in memory of Betty Betka



Linda Heinisch - March 05 at 10:57 AM