



Carole Prater

May 2, 1935 - December 17, 2020

A Memorial Mass for Carole will be held on Friday, July 30, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Geneva, Nebraska. A Rosary will be prayed Thursday, July 29, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Geneva.

A public graveside committal of ashes will take place in the St. Joseph Catholic Cemetery following the Memorial Mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to the St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Wilma Carole (Branch) Prater was born May 2, 1935 in Fulton, MO and passed away at home in Geneva, NE on December 17, 2020 at the age of 85. Carole was the third of six children born to Willis Roscoe and Lucille Elizabeth (Sullivan) Branch.

Carole was baptized on May 25, 1935, at St. Peter's Catholic Church in Fulton MO. She attended St. Peter's Catholic School in Fulton, MO until she and her family moved to her Grandfather's farm. While living on the farm, Carole attended Maple Grove Country school. After the Branch family moved to Mexico, MO in 1941, she began attending St. Brendan's Catholic School where she graduated as valedictorian of the 1953 class.

Mom and her brother and sisters loved their time on the farm, taking their horse to the country school and doing various chores. One family memory always stood out amongst the siblings. Carole's dad, Willis, would insist the garden be tended while he traveled for work, a task they typically "forgot" ...until hearing the unmistakable sound of his Model T chugging up the road at which time they'd race out and start tending.

After graduation, Carole began working as a secretary at Arthur Refractory brick plant, one of two fire-brick companies in Mexico. Card parties were the thing to do in 1950s America and at one of those social gatherings, Carole met a young, recently returned Navy sailor, Kenneth Prater, whom she started dating. They were married April 7, 1956 in St. Brendan's Church. To this union seven children were born – Anthony Curtis in 1957, Philip Alan in 1958, Janice Ann in 1960, Mary Carole in 1961, Kenneth Branch in 1962, Timothy Francis in 1964 and Donald Shane in 1967.

In Kenneth's career as a grain elevator manager, he and Carole and their ever-growing young family moved a number of times – Louisiana, MO; Salina, KS and ultimately to Geneva, NE in 1959 where Ken became the manager at Geneva Grain Company. They enriched the Geneva community for the rest of their lives. Carole had her own full time job as mother to seven children and the occasional dozen or so in the neighborhood who would routinely show up to play and eat. While many people commented on how much mom resembled Jackie Kennedy, we always thought her inner and outer beauty far exceeded the resemblance.

In addition to providing many neighborhood children with meals and snacks, made with a pinch or two of love and affection, mom also fed the numerous grain-hauling truckers dad brought home from the elevator. She was known by many for her mouth-watering Denver biscuits as well as for her grace and hospitality. No one ever left her house hungry.

If the measure of a person is the number of lives they have touched, then mom's glass overflowed. Mom quickly became a staple of the Geneva community. Many of her neighbors on I Street, where mom and dad originally lived when they first moved to Geneva, remained her life-long friends. Everyone looked up to - and out for - Carole simply for the infectious love of life she radiated. A rising tide lifts all boats and mom's personality lifted the spirits of all those with whom she came in contact. She truly was the embodiment of St. Francis of Assisi's admonishment to his followers: Preach the gospel always, and if necessary use words.

Throughout her life, mom held an unwavering faith in God. A life-long Catholic, she raised her children in the faith and instilled a strong sense of decency, morality and empathy towards others. Carole always saw, and brought out, the best qualities in everyone she met. She was always willing to help – caring for elderly neighbors and friends even when she herself was elderly. Mom spent years helping with Meals on Wheels; driving friends in need to medical appointments out of town; donating blood; serving on the Altar Society, and many more.

Carole instilled her love of vegetable gardening in her children by teaching them the value of planting, tending, harvesting, and canning vegetables as well as providing years of fabulous meals to her growing family. She took a special pride in her beautiful – often hybrid – iris flowers. She spent hours tending to her beloved gardens, feeding birds, and enjoying being outside in nature. She loved walking across the back yards to her daughter Jan's property - enjoying her menagerie of flowers; watching the finches, Baltimore Orioles, wood ducks, screech owls; and holding a hummingbird in the palm of her hand. Her gentle nature allowed her the opportunity to approach and pet a hummingbird that once sat upon her clothesline.

Mom came from a very musical family, playing her beloved piano from a very young age for herself and the singing Branch siblings – who performed the popular songs of the day for the local Mexico, MO radio station KXEO. Her love of music also translated into 40 devoted years of playing the organ at St. Joseph Catholic church for mass and special occasions. Her love of music was passed on to her family. Mom received a piano for Christmas in 1970 which she played daily giving her great comfort. Mom especially loved having her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren surrounding her while she played and having them join in with their voices.

Mom and dad enjoyed traveling often to see family across the United States. She loved visiting her children and grandchildren. A highlight for mom was to be able to travel twice to Panama where her daughter Mary and husband Harley have retired. She was in awe of the Central American culture, the tropical environment, the beautiful birds and loved the warm, sunny days.

Carole was preceded in death by the love of her life of 64 years, Kenneth on November 24, 2020. She is survived by children Curtis (Deb, daughters Hannah and Gabrielle); Phillip (Nancy, son Neal); Janice (Alan, daughters Shelbi & Kenzi); Mary (Harley, daughters Michelle, Robin and Katie); Ken (Susannah, children Megan, Tylor, Elana); Tim (Judy) and Don; great-grandchildren Kalon, Kade, Leighton, Leo, Leah, Taylar, Owen, Paxton and Tyler; her beloved sisters Rose, Sharon and Brenda; multiple nieces and nephews.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - August 02, 2021 at 03:58 PM



“ 6 files added to the album *Flower Pictures*



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - July 30, 2021 at 02:07 PM

PG

“ I'm so said to hear this. I loved Carole so much . Loved coming to see her when I was home.

Peg Geist - July 20, 2021 at 11:28 AM

KL

“ I am so sorry for your loss...may the Lord above comfort you through these hard times...

Kathy (marley) Lemon - December 27, 2020 at 01:19 PM

VA

“ Vicki Allgood lit a candle in memory of Carole Prater



Vicki Allgood - December 24, 2020 at 01:30 AM

NN

“ Dear Prater Family,
I'm so sorry for your double loss. Carole was a beautiful lady inside & out. I enjoyed many conversations with her through the years.
Sincerely,
Nancy Nichols



Nancy Nichols - December 22, 2020 at 08:37 PM

BW

“ Bill Webb lit a candle in memory of Carole Prater



Bill Webb - December 22, 2020 at 07:42 AM

GT

“ Carole was a special person and I'm grateful to have met her. Some Caroleisms I remember bring a smile to my face now.

Grant Trierweiler - December 20, 2020 at 05:52 PM



“ *Carol Best lit a candle in memory of Carole Prater*



Carol Best - December 20, 2020 at 04:48 PM

BB

“ *There are no words to say to ease the pain you feel today. May the memories you carry in your heart bring you comfort in these days of sadness.*



Bobbie Bock-Itzen - December 20, 2020 at 02:42 AM



“ *I never saw your mother that she didn't have a beautiful smile and a kind word to share. She was such a sweet lady. My heart breaks for all of you. Losing two parents so close together is unimaginable. Try to imagine the joy your mom and dad are sharing in heaven together. What a beautiful Christmas they will experience together with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Your mom will be singing right along with all the angels and saints in heaven. Hugs and prayers to all of you.*
Ann Steider Kamler

Ann Kamler - December 19, 2020 at 10:15 PM

KH

“ So sorry to hear this news. Carol was one of kindest people you could ever meet. Always smiling, always so nice to everyone. That never wavered. Ken with his sense of humor and Carol with her most genuine personality....what a pair. My most sincere condolences to the entire family in this unbelievably difficult time. God bless.

Kurt Hofferber - December 19, 2020 at 08:53 PM

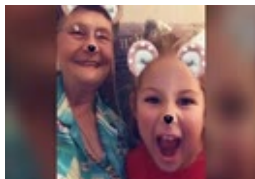
BW

“ To the entire Prater family: My heart breaks for you. What a beautiful woman your mom, grandma, and great grandma was. Just as beautiful on the outside as she was in the inside. She must have been ready to be re-united with Ken, in the wonderful afterlife. What a pleasure it has been for me, to know friends like these two. God bless you all, Bob Webb

Bob Webb - December 19, 2020 at 11:21 AM

KC

“ We love you, Grandma 💕.



Kenzi Clark - December 19, 2020 at 10:08 AM

KF

“ Aunt Carole was always the most gracious and loving women anyone would want to know. She had a heart of Gold, that loved every minute of life, her family and friends. I will always miss her BIG smile and great hugs, and the way she could light up a room and make everyone feel special! It will be hard to fill her shoes!!!

Kevin Fishburn

Kevin Fishburn - December 19, 2020 at 08:56 AM

BM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all right now. To lose a loved one is difficult, and losing two so close together is heart breaking. No words can explain it. May you find some comfort in knowing they are in each other's arms again.

*With deepest sympathy,
Brenda and Mike Motis*



Brenda Motis - December 19, 2020 at 08:12 AM

MS

“ So sorry Prater's, our hearts are sad but our memories are many ❤️
We ❤️ You

Mark & Sarah - December 18, 2020 at 11:42 PM

LD

“ Lisa Dondlinger lit a candle in memory of
Carole Prater



Lisa Dondlinger - December 18, 2020 at 10:31 PM

KT

“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Carole Prater*



Kent & Rose Theobald - December 18, 2020 at 09:12 PM

PP

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



phil prater - December 18, 2020 at 06:30 PM

DP

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Don Prater - December 18, 2020 at 05:36 PM

DP

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Don Prater - December 18, 2020 at 05:33 PM

DP

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Don Prater - December 18, 2020 at 05:30 PM

KC

“ The singing Branch sisters 💕



Kenzi Clark - December 18, 2020 at 05:02 PM



We do love this, thanks for sharing!

Brenda Walker - December 20, 2020 at 09:34 PM

KC

“ I'll miss you and cherish your memory forever.



Kenzi Clark - December 18, 2020 at 04:59 PM

JW

“ I can still her voice...singing!! Always in our hearts. 🙏🙏🙏. Jeff says Rest In Peace Wilma.
Jeff and Barb Whitley



Jeff and Barb Whitley - December 18, 2020 at 03:37 PM

LE

“ Dearest Prater family, My heart breaks for you again. This is just too soon after the loss of your father, I can hear your beautiful mother's sweet voice and see her sparkling eyes. You have my deepest sympathy and love. I know that God and all his angels are singing and laughing with Carol right now. I long admired the faith with which Carol lived her life and shared with others. May God give you comfort. Love Lorelei Edwards

Lorelei Edwards - December 18, 2020 at 02:35 PM

RN

“ Our deepest sympathy to the entire Prater family during this time of loss. Losing both your parents so close to the holiday's is heartbreaking. Our thoughts and prayer are with you all.



Rodney and Donna Norrie - December 18, 2020 at 01:58 PM

PM

What a sweet lady! My heart breaks for all of you!! Thoughts & prayers!!!

Pat Mathiesen - December 18, 2020 at 03:49 PM

DW

My deepest sympathy and love to the Prater family. Carole was a dear friend to many and we shall all miss her hugs and big smile.

Darlene Webb - December 19, 2020 at 11:12 PM

KW

To all of my Prater Family; Aunt Carole will always be remembered for her loving ways, amazing piano skills, which she tried to pass on to her children, beautiful person who always had the best intentions to fill our tummies, make sure we had a warm place to sleep and we all had clean faces... don't forget the ears. Aunt Carole, I will miss you dearly but I know you are in a better place and will be singing with the angels in Heaven. Karen Fishburn Weakely

Karen Fishburn Weakley - December 20, 2020 at 07:48 PM

JH

*Carole was the sweetest lady ! Definitely an angle among us! She had positive words for everyone and a wonderful smile! Her voice n piano playing were awesome!
She will be dearly missed!
She was an amazing friend to my mom!
My thoughts and prayers are with the Prater family losing both your parents so close together this year!
They are with the Lord, smiling down on you now!*

Jean Marie Huntington - January 01, 2021 at 10:40 PM