



Darlene O'Brien

April 25, 1935 - November 1, 2021

On April 24, 1935 Leona Darlene (Hahn) O'Brien was born at her family home west of Brock, Nebraska to Edward and Gertrude (Boellstorff) Hahn. She attended District 69, which was one mile North of the family farm. Schooling was a family affair as her sister, Norma, was also Darlene's teacher in the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades. Darlene was baptized at 12 years of age at the Charter Oak Christian Church in Talmage, Nebraska.

Darlene attended high school at Brock, Nebraska and graduated in 1953. She attended Peru State College for two years where she earned her Teaching Certificate. Darlene started teaching the 5th grade in 1955 for three years at Shickley Public School. In her free time, Darlene would go for walks around town, and a certain ornery man saw her and decided that he wanted to meet her. After dating 6 months, Tom and Darlene were united in marriage on November 23, 1957 at St. Andrews Catholic Church in Tecumseh, Nebraska. To this marriage one son was born, Patrick James O'Brien, on January 28, 1959. Darlene then took 5 years off from teaching to raise Pat until he was in Kindergarten. Shickley Public School re-approached Darlene and asked her to teach the 5th grade, again, for an additional 5 years. In 1970 the family moved to their current home in Geneva and she started teaching at Geneva Public School as a 6th grade teacher. She also earned her Bachelors Degree in Education from Peru State College, and in 1974, she also earned her Masters Degree in Education. Darlene finished teaching the 6th grade in 1991 and

then taught Title 1 from 1992 to 2000. Darlene devoted 40 years of her life to teaching and was a substitute teacher for 9 additional years from 2001-2010, when she officially retired.

Besides being a full-time teacher, wife, mother, and grandmother, Darlene loved to garden and canning with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed caring for all her flowers and fertilizing the purple cascading petunias. She enjoyed getting new bird seed and feeders for the birds to enjoy, well except for the Blue Jays and Squirrels. Cooking was one of her many gifts she was always baking pies, cakes, and cooking for the farmers in her life. Although she never shared her complete recipes, she did start giving a few of her secrets away to her grandchildren. Darlene was an active member of the St. Joseph's Catholic Church and Alter Society. She enjoyed going out to eat with her friends, and being a part of four different Bridge Card Groups. Darlene was also actively involved in Save for America, Book Club, delivered Meals on Wheels, and helped with the local food pantry. She was also an avid Husker fan and enjoyed going to the football games with Tom, Pat, Jan, and her grandsons.

Darlene went to see her Savior on November 1, 2021 at Fillmore County Hospital in Geneva, Nebraska after a short illness. Darlene is preceded in death by her parents; husband Thomas O'Brien; grandson Shawn O'Brien; sister Edna DeJonge; brother-in-laws Leonard Bray, Leonard Thurin, and Bill Cumberland.

Darlene is survived by her son Patrick O'Brien and his wife, Jan (Miller) O'Brien of Shickley, Nebraska; grandchildren Alex O'Brien and his wife, Emilee (Doll) O'Brien of Geneva, Nebraska, and Nolan O'Brien of Shickley, Nebraska; sister Norma Bray of Lincoln, Nebraska; sister-in-laws Rosemarie Thurin of Geneva, Nebraska and Margaret Cumberland of Georgetown, Texas; brother-in-law Ed DeJonge of Humboldt, Nebraska; nieces, nephews, many friends and neighbors.

A Funeral Mass for Darlene was held on Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Geneva, Nebraska. A Rosary was prayed the evening before at the Church. Father Harlan Waskowiak presided over the Services. Colin Wilson provided accompaniment at the Rosary and Charlotte Bumgarner accompanied the congregation at the Mass in the singing of "Here I Am Lord," "Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow," "One Bread, One Body," "Song Of Farewell," and "God's Blessing Sends Us Forth."

The Acolyte for the Mass was John Swanson, the reader was Ann Thurin Carlson, and the gift bearers included Alex, Emilee, Shawn, and Nolan O'Brien.

Pallbearers for the Service included Tim Thurin, Dan Thurin, Sterling Bray, Gary Bray, Lynn DeJonge, and Tim DeJonge.

A Graveside Service was held at the St. Mary Catholic Cemetery, rural Shickley, following the Funeral Mass.

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

Memorials are suggested to the Geneva Fire & Rescue Squads.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Rosary

NOV 3. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
831 E Street
Geneva, NE 68361

Funeral Mass

NOV 4. 10:00 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church
831 E Street
Geneva, NE 68361

Graveside Service

NOV 4 (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery
Rural Shickley, NE

Tribute Wall

LM

“ Pat, Sharing in your sadness as we remember, your Mother,
Darlene
With Heartfelt Sympathy, for the O'Brien Family with Love and
Prayers
From,
Linda and LeRoy Myers

Linda Myers - November 12, 2021 at 12:04 PM

TK

“ Sorry for your loss , I just read the news on the farmer & sons
website. Todd

Todd kamler - November 05, 2021 at 09:15 PM

RS

“ Mrs. O'Brien was a wonderful teacher in my life. She definitely had
a big heart, patience and passion for her students. Thank you for
teaching me how to read and understand what I was reading. I'll
never forget you ❤️

Ruth Robinson Schake - November 05, 2021 at 02:35 PM

JL

“ Prayers for the Darlene and the family. Very special lady and will be
missed.

Jerry Lentfer - November 04, 2021 at 07:01 PM

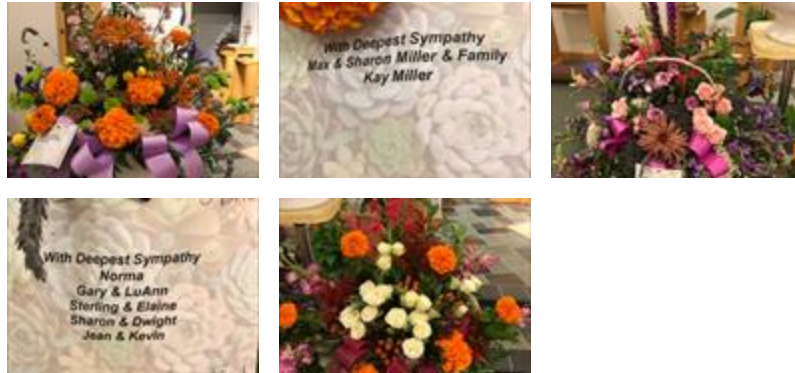
DP

“ *What a truly wonderful lady. Being the youngest of the Prater tribe, I missed out on a lot of the 'get-togethers' in the 60s before I got here but memories I will always cherish are what a spectacular teacher Mrs. O'Brien was - the best for me personally, possibly the best in Geneva's history. Kind but firm. You learned and BEHAVED in her class. Let the reunion commence, dad will deal this (5-point-pitch) round, mom the next, Tommy another.*

Don Prater - November 04, 2021 at 02:44 PM



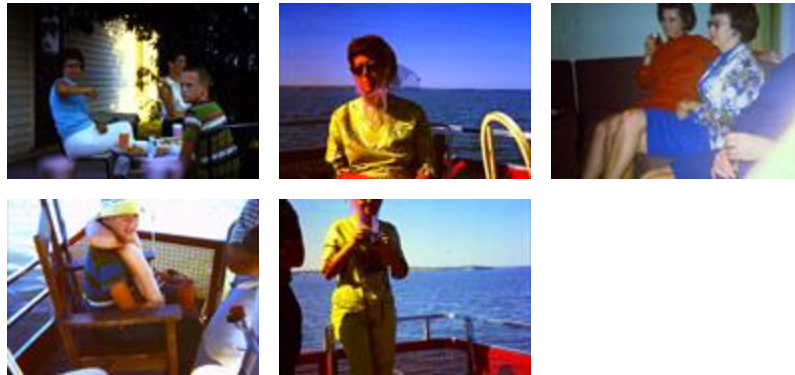
“ 49 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - November 04, 2021 at 02:43 PM

DP

“ 5 files added to the album O'Briens & The Praters, circa mid-1960s



Don Prater - November 04, 2021 at 02:37 PM

RV

“ Robert Votipka lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien



Robert Votipka - November 04, 2021 at 07:48 AM

TP

“ Rest In Peace, Darlene.. I was blessed to have you and Tom as Godparents. Timothy Francis Prater..

Tim Prater - November 04, 2021 at 01:41 AM

LA

“ LaDonnaPendleton lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien



LaDonnaPendleton - November 03, 2021 at 09:54 PM

MT

“ *Melanie Theye lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



Melanie Theye - November 03, 2021 at 08:43 PM

SS

“ *Steve And Barb Sadd lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



steve and barb sadd - November 03, 2021 at 07:54 PM



“ *George Jason lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



George Jason - November 03, 2021 at 06:10 PM

MD

“ *Darlene and Tom were such dear friends to my parents and family. Being left at their farm by my family all those years ago, I was given a lifetime of a specific memory to laugh about with Darlene. I'm so glad I was able to talk with her at my mom's funeral luncheon last July. Pat, Jan and family, you are in my prayers during this difficult time. Mary (Prater) DeLano*

Mary DeLano - November 03, 2021 at 06:01 PM

RG

“ *Darlene will be surely missed! She had a lot of spunk, grace and love for her family and so many friends! Prayers and blessings to the O'Brien family!!!*

Ryan Gratopp - November 03, 2021 at 05:37 PM

LH

“ *Linda Heinisch lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



Linda Heinisch - November 03, 2021 at 03:53 PM

DW

“ *My sympathy to the O'Brien family for the loss of their dear mother.*



Darlene Webb - November 03, 2021 at 02:53 PM

KT

“ *Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



Kent & Rose Theobald - November 03, 2021 at 01:47 PM

DW

“ *Darlene Webb lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



Darlene Webb - November 03, 2021 at 01:35 PM

DR

“ *Don Reinsch lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



Don Reinsch - November 03, 2021 at 09:13 AM

RR

“ *Our thoughts and Prayers are with the families. Rod and Sandi Renken*



RodandSandi Renken - November 03, 2021 at 09:03 AM

HF

“ *Holly Rippe & Doug Fischer lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



Holly Rippe & Doug Fischer - November 03, 2021 at 08:10 AM

LD

“ *Lisa Dondlinger lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



Lisa Dondlinger - November 03, 2021 at 02:56 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Darlene O'Brien.*



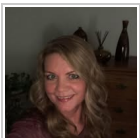
November 02, 2021 at 11:59 PM



“ *Rhonda Schlick lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



Rhonda Schlick - November 02, 2021 at 11:25 PM



“ *Carol Best lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien*



Carol Best - November 02, 2021 at 09:53 PM

MH

“ So very sorry to hear this - such a sweet lady. Pat, Jan & family - please know you all are in our thoughts & prayers.



Mike & Lynne Houser - November 02, 2021 at 08:43 PM

MS

“ We're very sad to hear about Darlene, we had many good times together and will miss her! Our Sympathy, L❤️VE,

Mark & Sarah - November 02, 2021 at 08:22 PM

VJ

“ Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Darlene O'Brien



Virginia Johnson - November 02, 2021 at 05:44 PM



“ I will miss you Darlene!!



Brenda Kronhofman - November 02, 2021 at 05:10 PM