



Frances W. Fessler

April 10, 1925 - December 7, 2023

Memorials are suggested to the Fillmore County Hospital Foundation, St. Helena Catholic Church, or Grafton Fire & Rescue.

Frances Winifred (O'Brien) Fessler was born to George Lawrence O'Brien and Sara Theresa (Britt) O'Brien on April 10, 1925 in the same home her father was born in, in Bennett Township, Grafton, NE. She passed away at Heritage Crossings Nursing Home in Geneva, NE on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at the age of 98 years, 7 months, and 27 days. Frances was the second oldest of eight children in the family.

Frances grew up in the Grafton Community. She was 12 years old when her father died from cancer. Frances was the oldest of seven surviving children. She attended rural grade school at School District No. 61 in Fillmore County which was known as the 'O'Brien School' that her grandfather, John O'Brien, Sr. had attended with his children. Her grandfather had come to America from Ireland. Frances graduated from Geneva High School with the class of 1942. After graduation, she worked in the AAA office and the Fillmore County Extension Office for four years at Geneva, NE. For numerous years, she assisted with the farm operation wherever and whenever needed.

She was married to Darrell Wayne Fessler of Sutton, NE on September 17, 1946 at St. Helena Catholic Church in Grafton, NE. To this union six children

were born. She lived on the same farm for 70 years, moving there in November of 1949 until December of 2019 when she entered Heritage Crossing Nursing Home in Geneva. She remained at Heritage Crossing until her death.

Frances was a lifelong member of St. Helena Catholic Church in Grafton, NE where she was baptized, confirmed, and married. She was an active member of St. Helena Catholic Altar Society and Circle, holding many different offices and serving as president for several terms. She was also a Fillmore County Hospital Auxiliary Member, a member of Inland Extension Club for over 50 years, 4-H leader, past teacher of Catechism at St. Helena Catholic Church, Fillmore County Hospital Auxiliary Member, past member of Women Involved in Farm Economics, worked on the Fillmore County Election Board for many years, member of Fraternal Order of Eagles Auxiliary Hastings Aerie 592, and past Crosier Lay Apostolate Member. She enjoyed taking part in community activities including her coffee and bridge groups. She and Darrell enjoyed traveling to various places including Western Europe, Hawaii, numerous states and also to Canada to visit relatives. Frances traveled to all the states except Alaska. In her later years she especially enjoyed visiting her grandparent's native country of Ireland with several relatives. She also liked photography, and had a collection of spoons, bells and fans. Frances loved the annual O'Brien Reunion and worked with everyone to keep it going. She delighted in her grandchildren & great grandchildren and tried to attend their various activities. She also took an active part in the family farm and enjoyed the life that it provided for her and the family.

She was preceded in death by her husband Darrell Wayne Fessler on January 9, 1979; son William (Billy) Earl Fessler on January 28, 1970; her parents George Lawrence O'Brien in January of 1938 and Sara Theresa (Britt) O'Brien in May of 1974; infant sister Theresa Ester in 1924; sisters Mary McCarthy in 1991, Helen Jennett in 2005, and Kathleen Bender in 2009;

brothers Lawrence O'Brien in 2011, Michael O'Brien in 2012, John O'Brien in 2013; father-in-law and mother-in-law Dewey & Lola Fessler; brothers-in-law Eugene Jennett, James McCarthy, George Bender, Earl Hammel, and Richard Hilton; sisters-in-law Mary O'Brien, Mildred Hammel, and Merrien Harmon. Frances also enjoyed the special friendship of Arden Chamberlin for several years.

She is survived by daughters Mrs. Betty Boitnott and husband John, of Hebron, NE and Mrs. Delores DuBois and husband Glenn of IA; sons Robert Fessler and wife Mary of Sutton, NE, James Fessler and wife Mary of Lincoln, NE, and Richard Fessler and wife Carol of Grafton, NE; 13 grandchildren including Jarrod Boitnott of Firth, NE, Jason Boitnott and wife Wendy of Nehawka, NE, Amy (DuBois) Sterling and husband Joshua of Ankeny, IA, Eric DuBois and wife Romney of Atsugi, Shi, Japan (Navy), Brian DuBois and wife Laureen of Kansas City, MO, Darin Fessler and wife Ashley of Lincoln, NE, Tracy (Fessler) Galusha and husband Jack of Grafton, NE, Curtis Fessler and wife Helen of Hamilton, MT, Kyle Fessler of Lincoln, NE, Krystal (Fessler) Betts and husband Darren of Omaha, NE, Chelsea Fessler of Stromsburg, NE, Shane Fessler of Shickley, NE, and Michelle Fessler of Grafton, NE; and 22 great grandchildren including Bailey & Bryn Boitnott, Ashley & Jack Sterling, Olivia & Owen DuBois, Dylan & Darryn DuBois, Hayden & Carter Fessler, Ally, Hannah, Johnny & Emily Galusha, Lucas, Ryan & Zac Fessler, Maddox & Knight Fessler, Clara & Hazel Betts and soon to be born Great Grandchild Betts; sisters-in-law Christen O'Brien of Yankton, SD, Donna O'Brien of Fairmont, NE, Judy Fessler of Kearney, NE; brother-in-law Duane Fessler of Eagle Rock, MO; and a host of nieces, nephews, relatives and other friends.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 15. 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Family Present for Visitation

DEC 15. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Rosary

DEC 15. 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Helena Catholic Church
172 Jackson Avenue
Grafton, NE 68365

Mass Of Christian Burial

DEC 16. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Helena Catholic Church
172 Jackson Avenue
Grafton, NE 68365

Tribute Wall



“ 48 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - December 18, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Frances W. Fessler.



December 14, 2023 at 05:44 PM



“ The Vermeer Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances W. Fessler.

The Vermeer Family - December 14, 2023 at 05:44 PM

DF

“ Duane Fessler. Paul, Sandy and Aubrey Fessler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances W. Fessler.

Duane Fessler. Paul, Sandy and Aubrey Fessler - December 14, 2023 at 10:50 AM

DF

“ Duane Fessler. Paul, Sandy and Aubrey Fessler purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Frances W. Fessler.



Duane Fessler. Paul, Sandy and Aubrey Fessler - December 14, 2023 at 10:50 AM

JC

“ Our condolences to the Fessler family. Francis was always a joy to visit with. I'm sure she will be missed by everybody that knew her.
Jim and Merrylyne Coward

jim and merrylyne coward - December 13, 2023 at 11:02 AM

HF

“ Holly & Doug Fischer lit a candle in memory of Frances Fessler



Holly Rippe & Doug Fischer - December 13, 2023 at 08:24 AM

TK

“ ..i Helped Build A Machine Shed For Darrel Fessler, With The Boren Lumber Construction Crew - Bob Bartu And Don Krecji, Back In 1974 - Nice People To Work For. Darrel Had An Injured Finger He Liked To Joke About, "They'd A Done Me A Big Favor If They'd A Just Cut It Off!" I Remember Him Saying While He Laughed 🤔 We Also Did Some Work For Andy Schaaf, There At Grafton - His Wife Was Gertie O'Brien - Probably Related Somehow. Got To Talkin To Gertie One Day When We Were Havin Some 68s (A Coffee Break) - Turned Out She Was My Great Uncle Edward Kelly's Girlfriend - Gertie O'Brien Had Pictures From Before He Died Of The 1918 Flu, In The Army, And Gave Them To me When We Discovered That Many Years Ago Connection. Small World. Thomas Edward Kelly. The Cacklebur Nebraska America 🇺🇸❤️🙏 Saturday, December 9th, 2023.

Thomas Edward Kelly - December 09, 2023 at 07:50 PM

KS

“ Deepest sympathy

Frank & Karla Slezak



Karla Slezak - December 08, 2023 at 06:19 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frances W. Fessler.



December 08, 2023 at 06:00 PM

VJ

“ *What a special lady in so many ways!*



Virginia Johnson - December 08, 2023 at 12:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Frances W. Fessler.*



December 08, 2023 at 11:17 AM

TF

“ *Teresa Anderson & Family lit a candle in memory of Frances Fessler*



Teresa O'Brien Anderson & Family - December 08, 2023 at 10:19 AM

JT

“ *Jeff & Bambi Timmermans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Frances W. Fessler.*

Jeff & Bambi Timmermans - December 08, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Frances W. Fessler.*



December 08, 2023 at 09:27 AM



“ *Diane Swerczek lit a candle in memory of Frances Fessler*



Diane Swerczek - December 08, 2023 at 08:53 AM



“ *Patty Kline lit a candle in memory of Frances Fessler*



Patty Kline - December 08, 2023 at 08:10 AM



“ *Linda Heinisch lit a candle in memory of Frances Fessler*



Linda Heinisch - December 08, 2023 at 06:17 AM

BR

“ *Bonnie Rippe lit a candle in memory of Frances Fessler*



Bonnie Rippe - December 07, 2023 at 10:05 PM

KT

“ *Kent Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Frances Fessler*



Kent & Rose Theobald - December 07, 2023 at 05:19 PM