



Gail E. "Heff" Heffelfinger

September 2, 1936 - October 7, 2024

A Mass of Christian Burial for Gail held Monday, October 14, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Exeter, Nebraska. A Rosary was prayed at 10:00 a.m. at the Church, prior to the Mass. Father Brendan Kelly & Father Ken Borowiak presided over the services. Agnes Anderson was the organist and Nicole Grubaugh was the Cantor and they accompanied the congregation in the singing of "Life High The Cross," "Amazing Grace," "On Eagle's Wings," and "How Great Thou Art."

Pallbearers included Christopher Heffelfinger, Nicholas Heffelfinger, Andrew Heffelfinger, Michael Heffelfinger, Dylan Filipi, and Jacob Heffelfinger. Honorary Pallbearers included Megan Heffelfinger and Taylah Filipi.

A Graveside Service was held in the Exeter Cemetery immediately following the Mass.

Memorials in lieu of flowers are suggested to the Exeter Fire & Rescue or the St. Stephen Catholic Church.

Gail Eugene Heffelfinger was born on September 2, 1936 to Robert Lee & Ruth Lucille (Bloodgood) Heffelfinger in Beatrice, Nebraska. He died on October 7, 2024 at York General Hospital in York, Nebraska at the age of 88 years, 1 month, and 5 days.

The family moved to Lincoln, Nebraska when Gail was 7 years old. He graduated from Whittier Junior High, Teachers College High School, and the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. Following graduation, Heff, as he was affectionately known, taught and coached at Plattsmouth High School. It was at Plattsmouth that he met his future wife, Barbara Joan Barkmeier, who was also teaching in the same school. They were married on July 27, 1961 at St. Stephen Catholic Church in Exeter, Nebraska. Three children were born to this union: Gregg, Brad, and Lynne. Heff & Barbara were married for over 63 years.

In May of 1963, the family moved to Exeter, Nebraska to manage and later purchase, Barkmeier's, a grocery store and general merchandise store, from Barbara's parents, Louis and Lucile Barkmeier. They operated the store until a storm in July of 1993 forced the closure of the business due to extensive damage to the building. After the closure of Barkmeier's, Heff worked at Norm & Greg Yound's grocery store in Exeter.

Heff enjoyed fishing at the family cabin at Smokey L. Lake near Linwood, Nebraska. He was an avid fan of all UNL sports, particularly Big Red Football. He took pride in his home and lawn. Heff especially enjoyed following his grandchildren's activities.

Heff was a charter member of the Friend Country Club and enjoyed golfing there. He was also a longtime member of the Exeter Volunteer Fire & Rescue. His love of sports kept him involved as he umpired little league baseball games for nearly 25 years and ran the chains at football games for many years.

Heff was preceded in death by his parents, Robert & Ruth Heffelfinger; brothers & sisters-in-law, Douglas Heffelfinger, Richard Heffelfinger, Robert &

Lyla Heffelfinger, and James & Sandra Heffelfinger; sisters, Patricia & John Weigang and Shirley & Edward Craren; brothers-in-law, Ed Smallman and Roger Johnson; nephew, Roger Johnson, Jr.; and infant twin brothers.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara of York, Nebraska; sons, Gregg Heffelfinger & wife Theresa of Jacksonville, Florida, Brad Heffelfinger & wife Andrea of Papillion, Nebraska; daughter, Lynne Filipi & husband Brent of Lincoln, Nebraska; grandsons, Christopher, Nicholas, Andrew, Michael & Jacob Heffelfinger and Dylan Filipi; granddaughters, Megan Heffelfinger and Taylah Filipi; sister, Sandra Smallman; sisters-in-law Margaret Heffelfinger, Jeanie Heffelfinger and Suzanne Johnson; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Cemetery Details

Exeter Cemetery

Exeter, NE 68351

Previous Events

Family Present for Visitation

OCT 13. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Farmer Funeral Home
305 South Burlington Avenue
Exeter, NE 68351
(402) 266-3621
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Visitation

OCT 13. 1:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Farmer Funeral Home
305 South Burlington Avenue
Exeter, NE 68351
(402) 266-3621
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Rosary

OCT **14**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Saint Stephen Catholic Church
207 N Union Ave
Exeter, NE 68351
(402) 266-5581

Mass Of Christian Burial

OCT **14**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Saint Stephen Catholic Church
207 N Union Ave
Exeter, NE 68351
(402) 266-5581

Tribute Wall

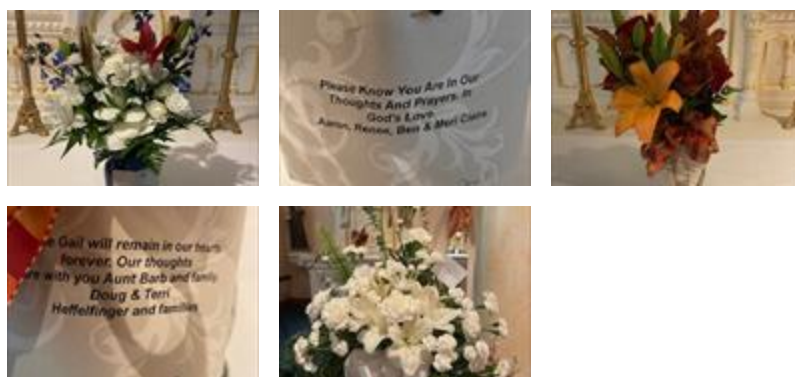
TK

“ ..Heff And Walt Dumpert - What A Pair On Walt's Basement Pool Table In His Little Museum Of Handmade Farm Toys...

Thomas E. Kelly - October 16, 2024 at 01:36 AM



“ 22 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - October 14, 2024 at 03:51 PM

PO

“ Pete & Elaine Oldehoeft lit a candle in memory of Gail Heffelfinger



Pete & Elaine Oldehoeft - October 12, 2024 at 02:32 PM

CS

“ So many happy memories of fun times together. I was saddened to hear of Heff's passing. Barb, I'm thinking of you and keeping you in my prayers. Love to all of you.

Charlene Schwark - October 11, 2024 at 08:30 PM

YF

“ Your OTC Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail E. "Heff" Heffelfinger.

Your OTC Family - October 11, 2024 at 03:14 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Gail E. "Heff" Heffelfinger.



October 11, 2024 at 03:14 PM

DF

“ Doug & Terri Heffelfinger and families purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Gail E. "Heff" Heffelfinger.



Doug & Terri Heffelfinger and families - October 11, 2024 at 12:52 PM

RS

“ When Jan and I first moved to Exeter, Heff was one of the first people to introduce himself to us, he was across the street in front of Barley Pop with Bill Becker, we knew we were in good hands. The very first business we got to see was the grocery store, would not have guessed that one. Great memories and great times

Russ/Jan Sears - October 11, 2024 at 10:05 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Gail E. "Heff" Heffelfinger.



October 11, 2024 at 09:53 AM



“ Keith/Cathy planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Gail E. "Heff" Heffelfinger.

Keith/Cathy - October 10, 2024 at 07:39 PM



“ Keith/Cathy purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gail E. "Heff" Heffelfinger.



Keith/Cathy - October 10, 2024 at 07:39 PM



“ Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gail E. "Heff" Heffelfinger.



October 10, 2024 at 05:00 PM

JT

“ I was so lucky to have Heff as a neighbor and to work with him at Greg's. His infectious smile always brightened your day no matter what was going on!

Jameson Trauger - October 10, 2024 at 03:32 PM

YC

“ Your Friends and Coworkers at CIP purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Gail E. "Heff" Heffelfinger.



Your Friends and Coworkers at CIP - October 09, 2024 at 04:41 PM

PA

“ Panowicz(Deb,Rod),Gonzalez(Wendy,Charles purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Gail E. "Heff" Heffelfinger.



Panowicz(Deb,Rod),Gonzalez(Wendy,Charles - October 09, 2024 at 04:20 PM

HS

“ Heff was a great guy. Always a smile.

Hope Marie Strate - October 09, 2024 at 03:05 PM