



## Janet E. Kennel

May 7, 1943 - October 12, 2019

Janet Elvera Kennel was born to William & Irma (Doering) Marquart on May 7, 1943. She was the second of four daughters. She lived most of her childhood on the Marquart family farm. From an early age, her mother instilled a strong work ethic in her; a trait that Janet held onto her entire life. As a small girl, one of her chores was to go to the cellar to get the family's butter for the week. Much to her mother's disapproval, Janet liked to eat half the butter before she got it to the house.

Janet attended rural school district #64. She enjoyed spending time with her cousins at family get-togethers, school, and church. She was confirmed at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, not far from the family's home near Byron, Nebraska.

At age 16, Janet's first 'in town' job was at the Byron Café, a job she really enjoyed. About the same time, she met a slightly older Mennonite boy named Warren Kennel from Strang, Nebraska, when one day he showed up at her parent's house. Janet was not allowed to date him until she was a bit older, but he kept showing up often playing catch with her and her younger sisters in the yard.

Janet graduated from Deshler High School in 1961. After courtship, she and Warren were married on June 10, 1962 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church. They

built their home on the Kennel family farm near Strang. They farmed with Warren's brother, Wayne and his wife, Betty, for more than 30 years. Her farm chores included milking cows twice a day, caring for the chickens, along with other chores that come with farm life. She also raised ducks, geese, turkeys, and a stray peacock that showed up one day.

Janet and Warren had two children, Randy Ray in 1963 and Joni Dee in 1966. She saw that they went to church every Sunday and tried to make them behave the best she could. When that didn't work, she told them "Wait until I tell dad what you did!" and that usually settled them down.

Family vacations were taken each summer, often to the Rocky Mountains. The highlight of more than a few of these vacations was watching Janet lose her footing, bouncing down the mountain they had just climbed on her back side and bringing home a souvenir bruise that she would gladly drop her drawers to show off if she were asked!

In the 1980's, Janet worked in Shickley as the Postmaster relief for a number of years. She also worked with Warren in their photography business taking pictures for many weddings and graduations. She also painted many houses with her mom and sister, Nancy, during these years. After Warren and Wayne retired from farming, they moved to Geneva where she worked part-time at Casey's for more than 10 years. One to never sit still, she also spent 29 years with Nebraska Ag Statistics as a statistician and then a supervisor for the last 15 years working for nearly 20 counties from Webster County all the way to the counties near the Missouri River. This job suited her well as it kept her on the move as she travelled up to 200 miles a day and made 100's of friends with the farmers that she interviewed across the area. She was known as the 'OI Pest' to many of the folks that she interacted with on her statistics job.

Janet and Warren enjoyed traveling, going to the grandkids activities, visiting

with friends and family, and attending many flea markets where they added to their large collection of 'things.' They celebrated their 50th anniversary in 2012.

In 2018, Janet was diagnosed with dementia. She moved to the Fairview Manor in 2019. As the dementia complicated her life, she continued to maintain her humorous and outgoing personality and she made many friends with the staff and residents at Fairview Manor. She enjoyed gathering the eggs each day, going on outings and doing activities with 'her' kids from the Tiny Images Childcare Center. She even entertained everyone by going down the slip-and-slide with the kids and catching the chickens with her bare hands after the chicken races this past summer.

Janet was a founding member of the Faith Mennonite Church from 1965 until its closing in 1994. She and Warren then joined the United Methodist Church in Geneva.

She finally got to 'go home' at the age of 76 on October 12, 2019 at the Fillmore County Hospital with her daughter by her side.

Janet was preceded in death by her parents, William and Irma Marquart; husband, Warren; parents-in-law Edward and Neoda Kennel; brother and sister-in-law Wayne and Betty Kennel; sister-in-law Norma Saltzman; and brother-in-law Jerry Vieselmeyer.

She is survived by her son, Randy Kennel of Geneva, Nebraska; daughter, Joni Nuss and husband Ron of Sutton, Nebraska; grandchildren Mitchell Nuss, Riley Nuss, and Emileigh Kennel; sisters, Merna Yoder or Aurora, Nebraska, Alice Vieselmeyer of Friend, Nebraska, Nancy Vogel and husband Ken of Hebron, Nebraska; brother-in-law LeVoy Saltzman of Shickley, Nebraska; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

A Funeral Service for Janet was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Geneva, Nebraska. Kim Dunker officiated the service. Sondra Myers accompanied the congregation in the singing of "I'll Fly Away." Emileigh Kennel sang "In The Garden."

Pallbearers for the service included Mike Yoder, Monte Yoder, Ray Vieselmeyer, Karl Vogel, Darrel Mosier, and Matt Mosier. Honorary pallbearers included Mitchell Nuss, Riley Nuss, and Emileigh Kennel.

Interment 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.com](http://www.farmerandsonfuneralhome.com).

Memorials are suggested to the Fairview Manor in Fairmont or the United Methodist Church in Geneva.

# Cemetery Details

## Geneva Public Cemetery

Geneva, NE 68361

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **15**. 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

OCT **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ 41 files added to the album Flower Pictures

IN LOVING MEMORY  
Lorie, JoAnn, Kellan, Angie,  
Marilyn, Annette, Nelva,  
John B, John T, Melissa, Jared,  
Carol, Donna M, Richard, Kay,  
Peggy, Yolanda, Donna R.



Lorie, JoAnn, Kellan, Angie,  
Marilyn, Annette, Nelva,  
John B, John T, Melissa, Jared,  
Carol, Donna M, Richard, Kay,  
Peggy, Yolanda, Donna R,  
Bonnie, Carole, Sue.

Donna Hillman  
Doris, Linda + Family  
Dorothy + Family  
Gloria + Family  
Curtis + Family  
Doris Hillman + Family  
Doris Hillman



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - October 16, 2019 at 01:01 PM

MA

“ Randy & Joni,  
*I have many fond memories of spending time with your family at your house & at church. Your mom was a fun lady. Sending you prayers of comfort for both of you & your families.*

Marti Austin - October 15, 2019 at 09:17 PM

RK

“ Dear Randy and Joni,  
*The loss of your dear mother is just one of the several for you. May you be given signs of our Good Shepherd carrying you through this valley. Be assured of our prayers.*  
*Ron and Judy Kennel*

Ron and Judy Kennel - October 15, 2019 at 01:13 PM

JW

“ Randy, Joni and family sorry for the loss of your Mother. She was such a strong and special lady, always wore a smile. She always had time to stop and say hello or wave as we all went on our with our busy lives. Enjoyed her visits when she was out on her walks! May you always hold your wonderful memories together close to your hearts. Our sympathy & prayers,  
Jim and Carlene Whitehead



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**Jim & Carlene Whitehead** - October 15, 2019 at 12:16 PM

KD

“ Joni and family, sorry for the loss of Janet. She was a spark of joy and she will b greatly missed.



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**Kendall Dahlstrom** - October 15, 2019 at 11:06 AM

JW

“ Joy Williams lit a candle in memory of Janet E. Kennel



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**Joy Williams** - October 15, 2019 at 08:53 AM

CR

“ Caleb Rippe lit a candle in memory of Janet E. Kennel



Caleb Rippe - October 15, 2019 at 05:26 AM

MB

“ I'm so sad to hear about the loss of your mother.. She was a sweet lady with a big heart.. such a caring lady and fun to be around.. I still think of her as Mrs Claus. May she Rest In Peace..

Marcia Busse - October 14, 2019 at 10:12 PM

MR

“ Sorry to hear about Janet, she will always be remembered for her kindness and beautiful smile. Cherish all the great memories❤️ Our Deepest Sympathy

Mark & Sarah Reinsch - October 14, 2019 at 08:27 AM

MW

“ Melea Walters lit a candle in memory of Janet E. Kennel



Melea Walters - October 14, 2019 at 01:58 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Janet E. Kennel.*



October 13, 2019 at 08:39 PM



“ *Holly Rippe lit a candle in memory of Janet E. Kennel*



**Holly Rippe** - October 13, 2019 at 06:19 PM



“ *Caleb Rippe lit a candle in memory of Janet E. Kennel*



**Caleb Rippe** - October 13, 2019 at 05:41 PM



“ *Rhonda Schlick lit a candle in memory of Janet E. Kennel*



**Rhonda Schlick** - October 13, 2019 at 02:37 PM

LE

“ Randy and Joni and family-

*We were sorry to hear of your Mother's passing. She was indeed a good friend and neighbor. We hope that your loss will be easier knowing that she is now at home with the Lord and your Dad. May the peace of Christ be with all of you during this difficult time.*

*Our love to you all.*

*Larry and Barbara Eichelberger*

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**Larry Eichelberger** - October 13, 2019 at 09:55 AM

MS

“ Janet and I go way way back! She was a dear friend. We had many laughs together over the years. When we were younger we played lots of cards together as couples until the wee hours of the night. Our children grew up together. I painted with her a couple summers and we could of written a book about some of our experiences. She was a joy to work with an a positive happy friend. Her family was her life and she'd talk about them often. The Janet I knew will be missed by many. Randy and Joni you are in my prayers for peace and comfort at this time. You were blessed with a wonderful mother! God Bless each of you. Love Marilyn

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**marilyn schweitzer** - October 12, 2019 at 11:05 PM

SN

“ So sorry to hear. Always enjoyed knowing the Kennels  
*Sandra Schafer-Nagy*

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**sandra Nagy** - October 12, 2019 at 08:01 PM