



## Loris Valda

February 20, 1935 - April 7, 2024

A Memorial Service for Loris was held on Thursday, June 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva. Pastor Solomon Adams presided over the Memorial Service. A private Graveside Committal of Ashes was held in the Lushton Cemetery.

Memorials are directed to Heifer International, 1 World Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72202  
Heifer.org

Loris Valda was born to Arthur and Elsie (Garbe) Heckman on February 20, 1935 in York, Nebraska and passed away on April 7, 2024 in Henderson, Nebraska. She celebrated her 89th birthday in February.

Loris attended elementary school at a number of one room country schools and completed high school in Geneva. Following her high school graduation, she worked for the Geneva State Bank for several years before returning to the family farm to resume her first love, farming. She learned from other farmers and did everything from driving tractors to managing a gravity-fed irrigation system to planting and harvesting corn, beans, and milo. For almost 16 years, she and her mother raised pigs and as Loris described it, "it was mostly hand work -- a lot of elbow grease, pitch fork, scoop shovel and a

pickup truck, and carrying feed in 5-gallon buckets!”. Loris never backed away from a challenge!

Sometime during this period, Loris devoted seven years to learning and teaching piano accordion. She had wanted to learn to play the accordion since she was a young child and studied with teachers in Lincoln. For six years, she traveled to neighboring towns teaching students in their homes and was involved in an accordion orchestra in Lincoln as well. At one time, she played a regular accordion music program on a York radio station for several months! The highlight of her music career was taking part in the Wilbur, Nebraska Centennial in 1973 during a Czech days celebration – she rode on a float with her accordion students!

Loris was married to Charles (Charley) Valda on June 7, 1975 at the United Methodist Church in Geneva, Nebraska. Together, Loris and Charley continued the Heckman family legacy of farming and raised livestock and crops together on the farm just north of Grafton until Charley’s death in 2021. She was very proud of being a member of the Aksarben Society from whom she received the Pioneer Award in 1991 for family farms continuously operated by family members for over 100 years. Loris was the 4th generation of the Garbe family to live consistently on this farm and actively farm the land since 1879! While still farming in Grafton, Loris and Charley moved to Milligan to live in Charley’s family home where Loris lived until shortly before her death.

Loris was a member for many years of the Bible Church in Lushton, Nebraska and her strong faith in God was very important to her. She loved her many cats and always had a close connection to all animals. She also loved to read and was very interested in wholistic health. As many who knew her will attest, she was a great story teller and loved to visit and reminisce about days gone by. She had a wonderful smile, a relentless spirit, and was as stubborn as they

come. She lived life on her terms, as she described it “the pioneer lifestyle”, and will be greatly missed.

Loris was preceded in death by her parents, Arthur and Elsie Heckman, and her husband Charles F. Valda.

She is survived by her brother Norman Heckman and sister-in-law Marge of Bedford, Massachusetts, her niece and nephew, Emelia and Nick, and several cousins.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

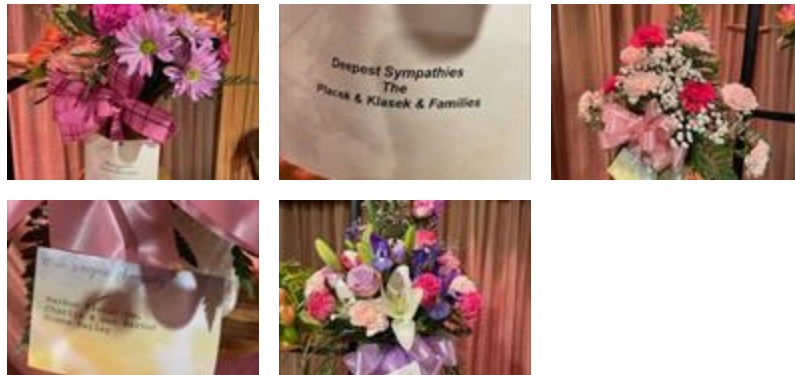
JUN **20**. 10:00 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall



“ 8 files added to the album Memories Album



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - June 20, 2024 at 09:16 AM

JK

“ I had the pleasure of being Loris caregiver for quite some time she was the most kind sweet lady who enjoyed everyday that I came on my visits we always had something to talk about and her laugh was unforgettable she always thanked me before I left I will miss you Loris may you rest in peace in Gods loving arms❤️

Joanna Kuhns - April 21, 2024 at 12:16 AM

SD

“ In the short time that Dennis and I spent occasions with Loris, we came to know a gentle person who valued her roots, friends, and loved her family. She trusted the Lord, and found comfort and contentment in her relationship with him. RIP, Loris. Sherrill Davis

Sherrill Gernandt Davis - April 10, 2024 at 10:59 PM

BR

“ *Bonnie Rippe lit a candle in memory of Loris Valda*



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**Bonnie Rippe** - April 09, 2024 at 04:43 PM

GS

“ *will miss them both , good neighbors to me and brenda for years, greg saltzman lushton*

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**greg saltzman saltzman** - April 09, 2024 at 03:45 PM

LS

“ *Many thoughts to her family. Loris was a very intelligent and kind person. She followed my girls all through school and was always happy to talk about their accomplishments. Our family thought a lot of her and Chuck.*

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**Lisa Stripe** - April 09, 2024 at 10:38 AM