



Louisa L. Manning

September 4, 1927 - June 20, 2023

A Funeral Service for Louisa will be held on Friday, June 23, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at Exeter United Methodist Church in Exeter, Nebraska. Pastor Murry Johnston will preside over the Funeral Service.

A Graveside Service will be held in the Exeter Cemetery following the Funeral Service.

Public visitation will be on Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. with family present from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva.

Memorials are suggested to the Exeter or Geneva United Methodist Churches, Exeter American Legion, Exeter Area Community Foundation, or the Exeter/Milligan Public Schools Foundation.

Louisa LaVonne (Schwab) Manning was born on September 4, 1927, to John Oran and Margaret Elizabeth (Myers) Schwab at her parents' home two miles west of Exeter, Nebraska. She died at Heritage Crossings in Geneva on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at the age of 95 years, 9 months, and 16 days.

Her grandfather, Philip Schwab, homesteaded across the road in 1871. Some of the history of her Grandma Melissa Whitaker Schwab's family is on the

monument in front of the Fillmore County Courthouse.

When asked as a small child what her name was, Louisa said something that sounded like “Wee-wee,” and her Dad never called her anything else. Her favorite place was outside or being in the barn with her dog, “Ernie.” She continued to enjoy dogs all of her life.

Louisa attended rural school District 91 through the fourth grade and Exeter Public School where she graduated with the class of 1944. She enrolled in classes at Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln and pledged Alpha Gamma Delta as a sophomore.

Louisa took the bus to work at the Havelock Goodyear plant the summer of 1945 working to cover WWII B-24 bombers’ fuel tanks with seven layers of rubber to protect them from bullets. The tanks were bigger than caskets. She was a real “Rosie the Riveter!”

Louisa received her teaching certificate in 1946 and taught fourth grade in Sutton, Nebr. for one year. She had 20 students and remembered many of their names more than 70 years later. Louisa traveled to New York State the summer of 1947 to visit Schwab relatives and the graves of ancestors.

Louisa was baptized and confirmed by Rev. Samuel Beechner at the Exeter Methodist Church on April 9, 1939, in the same class as her future husband, Richard Manning. They were married in an 8:00 p.m. ceremony on Fri., November 14, 1947, at the church. A wedding dance followed in Burress on the snowy and sleety night.

The couple lived on the “Abbott” place east of the Fairmont Airfield without electricity, plumbing or telephone. They moved into Dick’s parents’ home next to the Manning Grain Company headquarters in Burress in Nov. 1953 and

then into the house they built in the east “suburbs” of Burress in May 1960.

Louisa loved her home and family and enjoyed caring for their large garden and lawn, sewing, and canning. Her wedding memory album showed that her greatest ambition was “to be a good cook.” Dick said he taught Louisa how to make grilled cheese sandwiches, but it was noted that she baked her first pie, an apple, for her folks’ 30th anniversary three weeks after their wedding to serve with the rabbit that Dick had shot. Family and friends were beneficiaries of Louisa's great meals and baking: cloverleaf and cinnamon rolls, breads, kolaches, cookies, pies, and many angel food birthday cakes with seven-minute frosting. Her frozen sweet corn was priceless.

Louisa was a long-time member of the Exeter and Geneva UMW and American Legion Auxiliary Post #218, serving in various offices. She was a past member of the Exeter Women’s Club. Since building their home and moving to Geneva in March 1992, Louisa had volunteered for Save for American at the elementary school, at the Red Cross Bloodmobile, and at Heritage Crossings. Louisa and Dick enjoyed delivering Meals on Wheels together. They established the Richard and Louisa Manning Scholarship Fund in 2008 to benefit Exeter-Milligan and Fillmore Central graduates attending a University of Nebraska school. They also made gifts in 2009 to the Nebraska and Exeter Area Community Foundations.

In later years, Louisa and Dick continued to enjoy their new home, computers, reading, tending their flowers and garden, and attending their grandchildren’s activities and events. They traveled extensively. Some of their trips were by small plane piloted by Dick, including to Las Vegas and Canada. Louisa and Dick celebrated their 50th anniversary on Nov. 9, 1997, with a buffet dinner at Chances R Restaurant in York and their 60th anniversary and 80th birthdays with an open house buffet at Stone Creek in McCool Junction on November

17, 2007.

Dick died on October 13, 2011, following surgery in October of 2010, and Louisa could no longer care for her home and yard. She moved just down “J” St. to her Heritage Crossings assisted-living apartment on March 5, 2013. Her dear friend there was Dick's cousin, Jim Biba. Louisa moved to skilled nursing on November 18, 2015.

Louisa was preceded in death by her parents and brothers, Philip and Waverly (infant); husband, Richard; and daughter-in-law, Roxanne Manning.

She leaves to cherish memories and gratitude for her life her children Jim of Lincoln; Mary Jane (Ken) Havick of Omaha; Margie (Chris) Hayes of Osceola; Scott of Bennington, and Don (Joan), of Burress; eleven grandchildren Leslie (Pat) Huggins, Kirk (Elisha) Havick, Amy (Justin) Mollak, Kara (Brad) Geelan, Jena (Jeff) Depue, Austin and Landon (Jamie) Hayes, Megan and Madeline Manning, Rachel (Robert) Powell, Jr., and Shane Manning; fifteen great-grandchildren Brooks, Brynn, and Blake Havick; Nora, Levi, and Rio Depue; Elle, Luke, and Gavin Mollak; Maggie, Kora, and Kylie Geelan; Benjamin Powell; and Layla and Maxwell Hayes. Also surviving are many cherished nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends and neighbors, including members of the Burress Belles group.

Louisa's message to all who knew her: “Thanks for being a player in my life. I've been very lucky!”

Mark 14:8: “She has done what she could.”

Cemetery Details

Exeter Cemetery

Exeter, NE 68351

Previous Events

Family Present for Visitation

JUN 22. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

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

Visitation

JUN 22. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ 32 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - June 23, 2023 at 02:07 PM

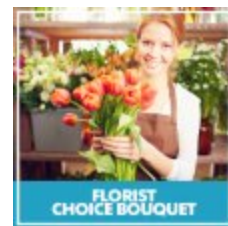


“ Aunt Louisa was like a second Mom growing up in Burrese. We Manning cousins spent a lot of time between houses back in the day!!
Many fond memories.
Aunt Louisa, you will be missed.

Melinda Hofferber - June 22, 2023 at 12:17 PM



“ Gayla and Gordon Johnsen purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Louisa L. Manning.



Gayla and Gordon Johnsen - June 22, 2023 at 11:08 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Louisa L. Manning.*



June 22, 2023 at 10:04 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Louisa L. Manning.*



June 22, 2023 at 06:40 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Louisa L. Manning.*



June 22, 2023 at 12:46 AM



“ *I am so sorry for the loss of Lousia. She always had a smile and always spoke to me! Your folks and my folks were always doing things together if it was church doings or taking turns goin to friends place after a game! She will be dearly missed.*

Kathy Wiemer - June 21, 2023 at 10:45 PM

TE

“ We are so sorry to hear of Louisa’s passing. She was a wonderful person and raised such good children

Tom and Sheila Ekeler - June 21, 2023 at 05:52 PM

PA

“ Such a grand person who had such an infectious smile. I will miss my visits with her.

Paula Kaiser Asmus - June 21, 2023 at 12:25 PM

MH

Paula, Thanks for your kind words and visits. I've thought of you often lately and how you dealt with your Mom's (EHS 1944!) dementia issues while Mom (and we) were dealing with hers (and hearing problems).
MJ

Mary Jane Havick - June 21, 2023 at 05:27 PM

VJ

“ vjohnson3352@gmail.com lit a candle in memory of Louisa Manning



vjohnson3352@gmail.com - June 21, 2023 at 08:40 AM

KT

“ Kent Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Louisa Manning



Kent & Rose Theobald - June 20, 2023 at 09:41 PM