



Shirley R. Hafer

May 20, 1955 - August 19, 2025

Shirley Rae (Robare) Hafer was born to Gordon L. Robare and Julia R. (Kamler) Robare on May 20, 1955 at the Geneva Hospital in Geneva, Nebraska, and passed away peacefully on August 19, 2025 at the Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska, at the age of 70 years old. She was one of three children in the family.

Shirley spent most of her childhood in Geneva, Nebraska. She babysat and worked at the sale barn on Saturdays where she often found herself in trouble with her friend, Marla. During high school, she was active in PEP Club, Girls Athletic Association and Chorus. She graduated from Geneva High School in 1974. It was in high school where she started dating the love of her life, Bruce Hafer.

After high school, Shirley began her college career at the Lincoln School of Commerce in Lincoln, Nebraska. Here she met her lifelong friend, Lorraine. Fred and Lorraine quickly became family.

On June 4, 1976, Bruce and Shirley were united in marriage at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Geneva, Nebraska, and were blessed with three children. They started their life on the farm near Turkey Creek and then moved into town. The majority of her work life was spent at the Fillmore County Courthouse where she worked in the Treasurer's Office. She enjoyed seeing everyone throughout the county and this was hard for her when she first fell ill.

She unfortunately was forced to retire in 2010.

Over the next 15 years, Shirley's health continued to be a rollercoaster, but she was a fighter. She never once complained about the hand she was dealt. She took it in stride, and she still managed to care for everyone else. Cooking was her love language. Whether you wanted a meal or not, she would have her oven running. It didn't matter what time of day or night she was always ready. She never let her health stop her from making a pan of cinnamon rolls or a "small pan" of corn casserole.

Her family was her pride and joy. Although she always said, "I love you all the same," the family often joked that Michael was her favorite. Michael was Shirley's righthand man. He was her "Bud." She was so fortunate to have her firstborn take her to every doctor's appointment, on countless shopping sprees, run her errands and be her primary caretaker for the past 15 years.

Shirley's house was always full. It was full of love, laughter and grandkids. Her grandkids were her "three babies." In the eyes of Grandma, they could do nothing wrong and have whatever snacks they wanted. There were no rules at Grandma's. According to Daxton, her one rule was "to have fun!" There was never anything to get done when the grandkids were present. They had her full attention, and she loved them with every ounce of her being.

In 2020 Shirley received the best gift. She received the generous donation of a kidney from Matthew L. She was extremely grateful for his gift. Thanks to him and his family, she was able to spend another five years with her family. That is something Shirley, Bruce and her kids never took for granted. Shirley was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents; father and mother-in-law, Orville and Darlene Hafer; her dear friend, Fred Pozehl; nephew, Ryan Lauenstein; niece, Carrie Koves; brother-in-law, Richard Hafer; sisters-in-law, Sondra, Barb and Roxann Hafer.

Shirley is survived by her husband of 49 years, Bruce Hafer; her children, Michael Hafer, Stacy (Paul) Filipi, and Julia (Todd) Bruns and her grandchildren, Emma and Easton Bruns and Daxton Filipi; her sister, Marla (Jerry) Messman; her brother, Richard (Corrine) Robare; brothers-in-law, Don Hafer, Doug Hafer, Brian (Brenda) Hafer; sister-in-law, Susan (Richard) Lessert; and countless nieces, nephews and many other close friends who were more like family.

A Funeral Service for Shirley was held on Friday, August 22, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Geneva, Nebraska. Pastor Karissa Miller & Kim Dunker presided over the Funeral Service. Melissa Houchin was the organist and she accompanied the congregation in the singing of "Amazing Grace." Karl Brinkman was the guitarist and solist and he performed "On Eagle's Wings" and "What A Wonderful World." The recorded selection "Go Rest High" was played at the conclusion of the Funeral Service.

Pallbearers included Todd Bruns, Paul Filipi, Jarrett Galusha, Jack Galusha, Spencer Hafer, and Ryan Hafer. Honorary Pallbearers included Emma Bruns, Easton Bruns, and Daxton Filipi.

A Graveside Service 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

Memorials are suggested to the family for future designation.

Cemetery Details

Geneva Public Cemetery

Geneva, NE 68361

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 21. 2:00 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

AUG 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

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

Funeral Service

AUG **22**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Geneva United Methodist Church
942 H St
Geneva, NE 68361
(402) 759-3034

Graveside Service

AUG **22** (CT)

Geneva Public Cemetery
Geneva, NE 68361

Tribute Wall

SK

“ Thinking of and praying for all of you.



Shawn and Lyndsey Kottas - August 22, 2025 at 03:01 PM



“ 86 files added to the album Flower Pictures



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - August 22, 2025 at 01:46 PM

BR

“ Bonnie Rippe lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer



Bonnie Rippe - August 22, 2025 at 10:11 AM

MW

“ *Melea Walters lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer*



Melea Walters - August 22, 2025 at 01:33 AM

SB

“ *Sandy & Rick Bolejack lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer*



Sandy & Rick Bolejack - August 21, 2025 at 09:17 PM

SB

“ *sherri burklund lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer*



sherri burklund - August 21, 2025 at 08:46 PM

JF

“ *Jack & Tracy Galusha Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley R. Hafer.*

Jack & Tracy Galusha Family - August 21, 2025 at 04:13 PM

JF

“ Jack & Tracy Galusha Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Shirley R. Hafer.



Jack & Tracy Galusha Family - August 21, 2025 at 04:13 PM

JR

“ Joseph R. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley R. Hafer.

Joseph R. - August 21, 2025 at 02:31 PM

NP

“ Keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers during this time. Shirley will be greatly missed
Ben&Nancy Pekar



Nancy Pekar - August 21, 2025 at 01:42 PM

DW

“ Diana Workman lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer



Diana Workman - August 21, 2025 at 11:42 AM

VA

“ Vicki Allgood lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer



Vicki Allgood - August 21, 2025 at 11:29 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Shirley R. Hafer.

August 21, 2025 at 11:15 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Shirley R. Hafer.



August 21, 2025 at 11:15 AM

YB

“ Your Cousin Dave Beetley purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Shirley R. Hafer.



Your Cousin Dave Beetley - August 21, 2025 at 10:25 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Shirley R. Hafer.

August 21, 2025 at 09:58 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Shirley R. Hafer.



August 21, 2025 at 09:58 AM



“ Jill McCoy and Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Shirley R. Hafer.



Jill McCoy and Family - August 21, 2025 at 09:27 AM



“ Holly Rippe & Doug Fischer lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer



Holly Rippe & Doug Fischer - August 21, 2025 at 08:20 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Shirley R. Hafer.

August 21, 2025 at 12:34 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Shirley R. Hafer.



August 21, 2025 at 12:34 AM



“ Kent & Rose Theobald lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer



Kent & Rose Theobald - August 20, 2025 at 09:27 PM



“ Rob Yilk lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer



Rob Yilk - August 20, 2025 at 05:58 PM

MH

“ Stacy & family. We are so sorry for your loss. Please know you are in our thoughts & prayers



Mike & Lynne Houser - August 20, 2025 at 05:44 PM

LH

“ Linda Heinisch lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer



Linda Heinisch - August 20, 2025 at 05:30 PM

SR

“ I will miss her smile that greeted anyone she met and said Hi to. My sympathy and prayers to the family. Sandi Renken



Sandi Renken - August 20, 2025 at 05:05 PM

AS

“ Shirley was one of the kindest, most warm-hearted individuals I have ever met. She will be missed by everyone who knew her. Condolences to Bruce and her entire family.



Alan & Pam Schroetlin - August 20, 2025 at 04:54 PM

RS

“ Randy & Rhonda Schlick lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer



Randy & Rhonda Schlick - August 20, 2025 at 03:23 PM

RF

“ Robare family & Olson family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Shirley R. Hafer.



Robare family & Olson family - August 20, 2025 at 03:10 PM

FF

“ Filipiand Hjort Families purchased the Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses for the family of Shirley R. Hafer.



Filipiand Hjort Families - August 20, 2025 at 02:48 PM

DF

“ Dimas/Filipi Families planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley R. Hafer.

Dimas/Filipi Families - August 20, 2025 at 02:39 PM

DF

“ *Dimas/Filipi Families purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Shirley R. Hafer.*



Dimas/Filipi Families - August 20, 2025 at 02:39 PM

VJ

“ *Shirley was so kind to everyone! she will be missed!*



Virginia Johnson - August 20, 2025 at 02:27 PM

M&

“ *Manuel &. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Shirley R. Hafer.*

Manuel &. - August 20, 2025 at 01:58 PM

PM

“ *Pat & Keith Mathiesen lit a candle in memory of Shirley Hafer*



Pat & Keith Mathiesen - August 20, 2025 at 12:58 PM

SV

My family (the Anstine's) were neighbors and close friends with the Robar's from way back when they lived in Kansas. I have such great memories of sweet Shirley with the most contagious laugh. My thoughts and prayers are with her family in this most difficult time.

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." – Matthew 5:4

RIP Shirley.

Sondra Vandever

Sondra Vandever - August 21, 2025 at 03:28 PM