



Theresa A. "Teri" Yates

February 12, 1960 - December 23, 2025

Theresa Ann "Teri" Yates, age 65, passed away peacefully on December 23rd, 2025 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Teri was known for her quiet warmth and steady presence, offering kindness in simple, meaningful ways. Whether through her work, her friendships, or time spent with family, she had a way of making others feel cared for and at ease.

Teri was born on February 12, 1960, to James McGowan and the late Marge (Zimmerman) McGowan. She graduated from Fairmont Public High School in 1978 and later earned her degree from Creighton College in 2003. She dedicated her professional life to healthcare, where she was known for her calm presence, attentiveness, and genuine care for others. Over the years, she spent 13 years in ophthalmology, 7 years at Mary Lanning Hospital, and 12 years at the Hastings Surgical Center, serving patients and coworkers with quiet compassion.

On June 7, 1980, Teri married Marion "Rowdy" Yates Jr., with whom she shared 45 years of marriage. Their relationship was rooted in deep friendship, mutual respect, and enduring love. Rowdy was truly her best friend.

Teri is the mother of Shannon (Michael) Spies, Ryan (Kathy) Yates, and Brooke (Michael) Braun. She approached motherhood with steadiness and care, offering support and presence through each season of life.

She is a beloved “Mimi” to her grandchildren—Avery, Keziah, Lucy, and Martin—and treasured the time spent with them. Her retirement years were filled with meaningful moments, laughter, and memories made alongside those she loved most.

Teri is also survived by her father James McGowan, her sister Ann (Ken) Knust, and her brother Hank McGowan.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Marion “Rowdy” Yates Jr, her mother Marge McGowan, her aunt Barb Engelbrecht, and her grandparents Jack and Grace Zimmerman.

Teri will be remembered for her gentle heart, her nurturing nature, and the quiet ways she cared deeply for those around her. Her legacy lives on in the love she gave and the lives she touched.

A Memorial Service for Teri was held on Monday, December 29, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva. Lay Pastor Michelle Lessard presided over the Memorial Service. The recorded selections “Amazing Grace,” “In The Garden,” and “I’ll Fly Away” were played during the Memorial Service.

A private Committal of Ashes was held at the Geneva Public Cemetery immediately following the Memorial 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.

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Cemetery Details

Geneva Public Cemetery

Geneva, NE 68361

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC **29**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home

242 N 10th Street

Geneva, NE 68361

(402) 759-3617

<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *My sympathies to the family. I worked with Teri many years ago. She was the nurse who taught me how to be the assistant nurse for Dr. Vondrak in surgery. Then years later we worked next to each other at the surgery center. She was a fabulous nurse and woman!*

Melissa Schmidt - January 25 at 12:22 PM

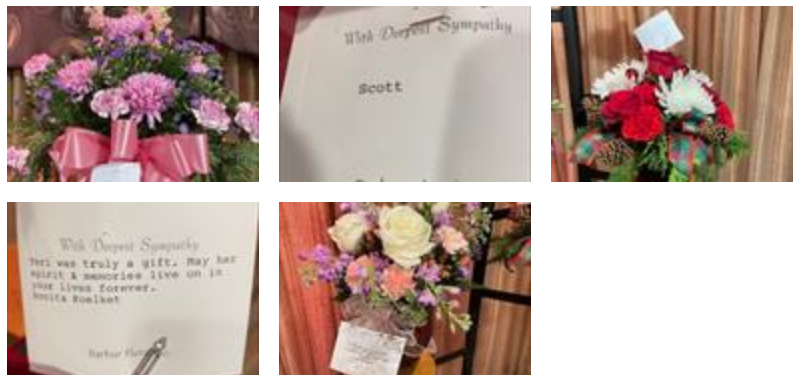
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“ *We want to offer our sincere condolences to all of Terri's family. I had done Terri's hair appointments for many years and enjoyed her so much. I just received a gift card and note from her a couple weeks ago, but had no idea her time was so short, and did not hear back from her. She loved sharing about her family so much. I have missed seeing her this last year since Rowdy passed, and I am hoping she spent most of her time with all of you. Please let us know if you need any help in any way! You are in our prayers, she was such a sweet, caring person for sure! Sincerely, Donna and Andy Leichleiter*

Donna Leichleiter - January 04 at 10:31 PM



“ *20 files added to the album Flower Pictures*



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - December 29, 2025 at 01:13 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Theresa A. "Teri" Yates.*



December 26, 2025 at 02:44 PM



“ *Nate and Hannah Gillett purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Theresa A. "Teri" Yates.*



Nate and Hannah Gillett - December 23, 2025 at 11:31 PM



“ *Nate and Hannah Gillett planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Theresa A. "Teri" Yates.*

Nate and Hannah Gillett - December 23, 2025 at 11:31 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Theresa A. "Teri" Yates.*



December 23, 2025 at 09:29 PM

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“ Mike & Kristina Scott planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Theresa A. "Teri" Yates.

Mike & Kristina Scott - December 23, 2025 at 09:29 PM