



Kathryn "Katie" M. Voecks

March 7, 1929 - January 26, 2026

PIERCE – Memorial service for Kathryn Mary Voecks, 96, of Pierce, will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, January 29, 2026 at the St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierce. Father Vincent Germace will be officiating the service. Inurnment will be held at the St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery, rural Pierce. Visitation will begin one hour prior to the service also at the church. The service will be live-streamed on the Stonacek Funeral Chapel Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stonacekfuneralchapel/>. Kathryn went to be with her Savior Jesus Christ on Monday, January 26, 2026 at the Heritage of Bel-Air Nursing Home in Norfolk. Stonacek Memorial Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Kathryn Mary "Katie" Abler was born on March 7, 1929, in Pierce, NE. She was the fifth of 10 children born to Walter August and Stella Marie (Wright) Abler. She grew up by her mother's side and learned to sew, cook, bake and care for babies – skills she honed and carried throughout her life. She was always artistic and used her talents to paint the Abler Transfer, Inc. logo and information on all her dad's trucks and trailers. While in high school she was a cheerleader and worked at the movie theater, graduating from Pierce High School in 1947. After graduation she moved to Norfolk to work as a switchboard operator for Bell Telephone Company. She married her high school sweetheart, Roland L. "Rol" Voecks on October 6, 1953 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Pierce, NE. The couple moved to Boston, MA, while Rol

served in the United States Navy. They celebrated 65 years of marriage together before Rol passed away on January 18, 2019. They also celebrated almost as many years together as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus, dressing up and visiting family and friends in full costume.

Katie and Rol managed restaurants for King's Food Host in Fort Dodge, IA, and Boulder, CO, and Farmington, NM. Eventually they renamed King's to Katie's Kitchen and owned and operated it for 10 years. Along the way they welcomed three children, Rolanda, David and Dan. Katie was a fiercely devoted, fun and loving wife, mother and grandmother. She was supportive and active in their children's and grandchildren's activities and interests. Together they went on fun adventures, golfed, and shared their love of nature, animals, hot air ballooning and riding around in their VW Bug or 1929 Ford Sports Coupe.

In 1980 they moved back to Pierce, NE, to be closer to family. In 1980 they opened, owned and operated The Granary Restaurant in Norfolk for 30 years until their retirement in 2010. Katie baked all the pies and made all the soups at the Granary, along with hosting, busing tables, and whatever needed to be done to keep the place running smoothly. She had an extraordinary work ethic and took pride in treating her staff and "regulars" like family.

Katie enjoyed baking, making candy, cooking, putting together puzzles, working in her flower beds and gardening, birding, and just being out in nature. She was also a talented stained-glass artist. She used her creativity and artistic flair in everything she touched - decorating her home, The Granary, and painting countless Halloween pumpkins to raise awareness of Spina Bifida. Whatever the occasion or holiday with family and friends her tablescapes were stunning, the food and baked goods were homemade and delicious, and her hospitality was authentic, warm and generous.

Family was everything to Katie. Her parents, siblings and their spouses celebrated every birthday, anniversary, holiday and any excuse to get together for good food, fellowship and fun. It was beautiful and heartwarming to see how much they cared for and enjoyed each other.

Katie was an active and life-long member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Katie had a deep, strong and abiding faith in Jesus Christ, and a special devotion to Mother Mary, that gracefully carried her through every season of life.

Katie is survived by her children, David Voecks of Albuquerque, NM, and Dan (Pam) Voecks of Durango, CO; grandchildren Mandi (Dr. Phillip) Uphold, Dr. Erica (Landon) Grant, Stephanie Sussex, Derek Voecks, and Isabelle Voecks; great grandchildren RandiLynn Uphold, Colt Uphold, Gage Uphold, Ezra Grant and Erisa Grant; son-in-law Dr. Randy Sussex; siblings Paul (LaNeta) Abler, Lois Ann Weber, Elizabeth (Jim) Miller, and Leon (Maureen) Abler; sister-in-law Wilma Abler; special family friend Marion Cordova of Berkeley Springs, WV; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband Roland Voecks, daughter Rolanda Sussex, grandson Garrett Voecks, and her siblings Leonard Abler, Dolores Theisen, Marian Crabb, Mark Abler, and Robert Abler.

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com.

Cemetery Details

St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery - Rural Pierce

Rural Pierce
Pierce, NE 68767

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 29. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Pierce
118 Willow St.
Pierce, NE 68767

Memorial Service

JAN 29. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph's Catholic Church - Pierce
118 Willow St.
Pierce, NE 68767

Tribute Wall

DG

“ *Such a dear lady. I loved to have her visit my flower gardens and shade garden. Chat over pie and coffee* ❤️

Darlene Gutzmann - January 29 at 11:18 AM

JG

“ *I remember Christmas time we would get together at Katie's house and bake sugar cookies i enjoyed working with Katie she taught me how to bake the pies at the granary*



Julie Graae - January 28 at 10:04 PM

PM

“ To the family of my Aunt Katie,
Katie was the consummate hostess! She knew how to nurture, entertain and love people, especially her family. She was a beautiful artist who left her mark everywhere she went. Her dream house had windows and doors in every direction with unique gardens or holiday displays to "ponder" on. She always had an idea about how to get the whole gang together. It was a chartered bus ride to Iowa, a houseboat full of brothers and sisters on a lake in the middle of nowhere, a cabin in the mountains with rituals like the "Elk Run". There were pool parties and dress up parties. A crazy canoe trip down the Niobrara River for couples who did not know how to paddle a canoe! There were birthday parties and anniversaries to celebrate and even hot air balloon rides where she had to figure out which country lane to take to be there in time to grab that giant when it was ready to come down! If Katie was involved it would be fun. Oh how we will miss her now that she has gone on. My prayer is that we use her example of spending time with family, to keep those we love close to our heart where we can find strength as we go on.

Pamalla Theisen Moes - January 28 at 06:46 PM

JB

“ I remember her smile and great hair...Rolanda always brought her to my Salon for a cut and style when she came to visit. My love and Prayers to you all, with fond memories, JoVella Blinzler.

JoVella Blinzler - January 28 at 10:21 AM

MC

“ Every person she ever met was privileged and touched by the experience. Her generous, joyful, and warm embrace of humanity, whether a casual encounter in a check-out line, a neighbor, an acquaintance, an employer of many over the years, a wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, none who met her or knew her, are likely to forget her. Katie’s warmth was like the sun, radiant and life-giving, illuminating, expecting nothing in return but for you to share it with others. Go in peace and in grace. Thank you for everything.

Marion Cordova - January 27 at 08:31 AM

JE

“ Jennifer purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Kathryn "Katie" M. Voeks.



Jennifer - January 26 at 04:39 PM