



## Ronda S. Spanel

November 24, 1965 - June 17, 2022

NORFOLK -- Funeral service for Ronda S. Spanel, 56, of Norfolk will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, June 23, 2022 at the First United Methodist Church in Norfolk. Pastor Neal Gately will be officiating the service. Interment will be held at the Prospect View Cemetery in Norfolk. Visitation will be 4:00 - 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 22, at the Stonacek Funeral Chapel in Norfolk. A time for sharing memories with family and friends will begin at 6:30 p.m. following the visitation. Ronda passed away with her family by her side on Friday, June 17, 2022 at her residence in Norfolk. Stonacek Funeral Chapel is in charge of the arrangements.

Ronda was born on November 24, 1965, to Ron and Shirley (Mickey) Baker and grew up in Stromsburg, NE. She spent most of her childhood on the Baker family homestead just south of town, and graduated from Stromsburg High School in 1984. She went on to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, where she met her husband Jim Spanel. The couple married at Grand Island St. Mary's Cathedral on March 21, 1987. Ronda graduated from UNL with a degree in elementary education in 1988. She and Jim then moved to Enid, Oklahoma, where she taught 4th grade. After the birth of the couple's son AJ in 1990, the family moved to Norfolk, NE where their daughter Ellie was born in 1992. Both Ronda and Jim continued to live and work in Norfolk as teachers for the Norfolk Public School system. Ronda also went on to earn her Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Doane College, and

eventually specialized as a reading teacher.

Those who knew Ronda well described her as a sincerely generous, thoughtful, and loving woman. She enjoyed making connections with her students and co-workers, and always treasured time spent with her family. She loved fishing, watching (and quoting) movies, and going on walks.

Ronda is survived by husband Jim Spanel, son AJ (Morgan) Spanel of Norfolk, daughter Ellie (Parker) Van Roy of Omaha, grandsons Brooks Spanel and soon-to-be-born Luke Van Roy, mother Shirley Baker of Stromsburg, brother Craig (Lillian) Baker of Juniata, sister Teri (Lindsey) Freeman of Stromsburg, sister Coleen (Kevin) Cuda of Omaha and a host of other beloved family members. She was preceded in death by her father Ronald Baker and infant sister Michele Baker.

Ronda was passionate about providing every opportunity for her students to succeed in reading. She was an advocate of the Delivering Infinite Book Shelves (DIBS) For Kids Program, which is a 501(C)(3) Nonprofit headquartered in Omaha, NE. DIBS provides books for children to take home every school night to allow for in-home reading experiences that are indispensable to their learning. Please consider donating to the DIBS fund in honor of Ronda. If you would like the funds to go directly to students at Washington Elementary there is a place to specify this in the notes section of the website provided below.

You can also donate through the DIBS website with this link if you would prefer. <https://www.dibsforkids.org/donate/#donate>

Cash or check can also be mailed to:

DIBS for Kids

1111 North 13th Street, Suite 426

Omaha, NE 68102

You can also donate in honor of Ronda and the millions of others impacted by breast cancer at <https://www.bcrf.org>

Condolences may be expressed to the family on-line at [www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com](http://www.stonacekfuneralchapel.com).

# Cemetery Details

## Prospect Hill Cemetery - Norfolk

1500 Maple Avenue  
Norfolk, NE 68701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **22**. 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM (CT)

Stonacek Funeral Chapel - Norfolk  
1200 N.13th St.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
(402) 371-7676  
[info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com](mailto:info@stonacekfuneralchapel.com)  
<https://stonacekfuneralchapel.com/>

## Funeral Service

JUN **23**. 10:30 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church - Norfolk  
406 West Phillip Ave.  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
<http://www.norfolkumc.org/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Stonacek Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Ronda S. Spanel*



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**Stonacek Funeral Chapel** - June 20, 2022 at 01:57 PM



“ *Ronda S. Spanel*

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October 05, 2023 at 03:46 AM



“ *Our condolences to the family. Mrs. Spanel was a great teacher and my son had her all though his time at Washington School ❤️ I don't know where either one of my children would be without her! Rest in Paradise Mrs. Spanel we will never forget you 🙏❤️*



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**Amber Rodriguez** - June 23, 2022 at 12:51 PM

CF

“ My son loved Ronda so so much she had him in reading at Washington for kindergarten and first grade my son cried at the end of kindergarten because he was worried he would not get to be with her in first day I let your mom know that and best believe she told me tell him not to worry he is already on my list for first grade :) I hope on his name quick because he holds a special place in my heart all I can say is my son will definitely miss her and thought the world of her then some.! Every time there was a school event she would be the first one he would look for. If my son was having a rough time before school in the morning she would always go check on him shortly after to make sure he was ok and always got back to me asap to the world she may be a person but to him she was the whole world ❤️❤️❤️ She will forever be missed

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**cassie fisher** - June 22, 2022 at 11:50 PM

ER

“ All of my kids had the opportunity to work with Ronda during their time at Washington elementary. She did great with my kids as she did with many others. She's one of the kindest people I have ever met. She's not one to be easily be forgotten. My kids really enjoyed working with her. We send our love and condolences to Ronda's family.

Sincerely,  
The Goolsby Family

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**Erin** - June 22, 2022 at 05:21 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.



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June 22, 2022 at 04:49 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.



June 22, 2022 at 02:34 PM



“ *The Povich Family* purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.



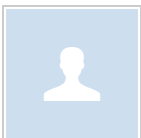
**The Povich Family** - June 21, 2022 at 01:59 PM



“ *Glorious Grace Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.



June 21, 2022 at 10:27 AM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.



June 20, 2022 at 09:25 PM

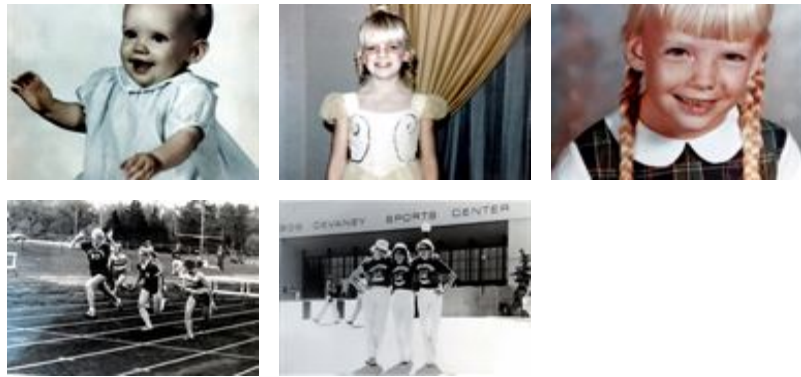


“ Roger and I are so very sad for your loss. Ronda was a beautiful woman, inside and out. She did a wonderful job with children. So glad some of our children had her in Sunday School, confirmation. Love to all of you.

Marilyn Kudera - June 20, 2022 at 03:46 PM



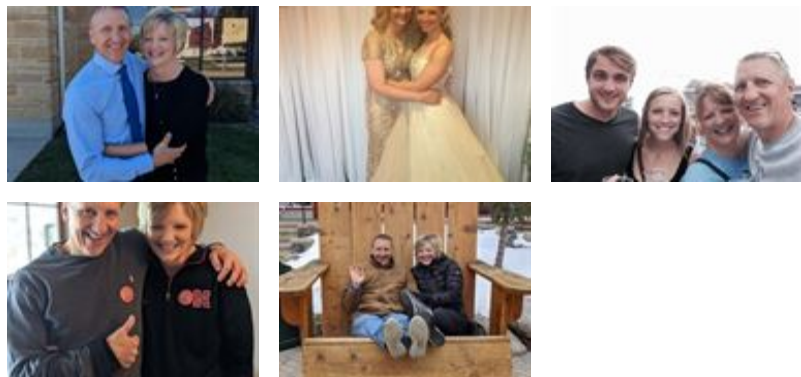
“ 38 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stonacek Funeral Chapel - June 20, 2022 at 01:57 PM



“ 97 files added to the album Life Tributes



Stonacek Funeral Chapel - June 20, 2022 at 11:12 AM

JK

*Rhonda was one of the most gentle and kind person I've ever met. She reflected the love of Christ in her words and in her actions. I'm so sorry for the family and the huge loss. I know that she is in Heaven surrounded by Gods love and watching over you. May God give you a peace that surpasses understanding during this time.*

*Joni Kirchner*

**Joni Kirchner** - June 20, 2022 at 01:00 PM



“ *Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.*



June 20, 2022 at 09:54 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.*



June 20, 2022 at 08:28 AM

CS

“ *Chris Spanel & Elisa Shalari purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.*



**Chris Spanel & Elisa Shalari** - June 19, 2022 at 10:31 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.*



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June 19, 2022 at 04:42 PM



“ *Jim, AJ and Ellie,  
Our deepest sympathy to all of you. Lots a great memories of  
baseball games with the boys and cheering them on and of course,  
watching Ellie become a fantastic Audiologist!! Our lives are blessed  
for knowing her and your family. Know that you are all in our hearts.  
Marshall and Cindy Johnson*

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**Cindy Johnson** - June 18, 2022 at 08:16 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.*



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June 18, 2022 at 10:36 AM

SS

“ Jim, AJ and Ellie...my love and deepest sympathy to you. Words cannot adequately express my thoughts, but knowing that she is in the arms of our Heavenly Father brings much comfort and peace.



*A quote from one of my favorite hymns...But I look up into the eyes of Jesus where my soul can rest and where there is perfect peace and every HOPE fulfilled. Amen!*

*One of my life's bible verses.*

*John 16:33. I have said these things to you that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.*

*Love, Sheila*

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**Sheila Spanel** - June 18, 2022 at 07:20 AM

FS

“ My heart goes out to you all at this time of loss. What a wonderful person who will be deeply missed! Deepest sympathy to you all.



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**Faye Simpson** - June 17, 2022 at 11:55 PM

JH

*Ronda was a wonderful mother, wife, grandmother, friend and teacher. She will be missed by everyone who knew her. She was a very special person! My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Jean Higgins** - June 18, 2022 at 07:32 PM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.*



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June 17, 2022 at 09:20 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.*



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June 17, 2022 at 06:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.*



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June 17, 2022 at 06:23 PM



“ *The Family of Kent and Michele Lawson purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Ronda S. Spanel.*



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**The Family of Kent and Michele Lawson** - June 17, 2022 at 10:27 AM