



## Ruth Wankel

July 5, 1933 - August 6, 2012

Ruth Caroline Vette Wankel, 79, peacefully passed away on Monday, August 6, 2012, in Fort Collins, Colorado after a long bout with cancer. She was born July 5, 1933 in Beardstown, Illinois to William and Clara Caroline Boensel Vette. She grew up and attended school in Beardstown. Ruth married Donald Wankel at Beardstown in 1951. Before moving to Fort Collins in 1963, the couple farmed near Beardstown. She was mom, grandmother, great-grandmother and homemaker her entire adult life. Ruth and Don raised their children in the house on Green Street, where they lived for 50 years. Ruth kept an immaculate home, decorated for every imaginable occasion, served wonderful meals to family and friends, and made sure everyone was well cared for. Never was a meal served without homemade dessert. Spare minutes never existed in her day as there was always a letter to write, cookies to bake, meals to prepare, or socks to darn. Seeing Ruth sitting down was a rare-sight to behold. And she absolutely loved to shop for the best deal in town, be it for groceries, clothes, or trinkets to decorate the house. She was a volunteer at Poudre Valley Hospital for 27 years and was an active member of St. John's Lutheran Church for nearly 50 years. The family would especially like to thank the PVH Radiology personnel for their kindness and care and for the unbounded love of Green Street neighbors and friends at St. John's Church. Survivors include husband Donald of 61 years, and sister Erma Ruppel of Beardstown, Illinois. She leaves a son Douglas (Sylvia) Wankel of Aurora, Colorado; grandchildren Keith Wankel of Aurora, Colorado, Nikki (Mike) Martin of Brighton, Colorado, Erin Frey (Kader) Barry, of Hayward, California; and great-granddaughter Lydia Jane Martin. Ruth was preceded in death by her parents, her daughter Janet (Wendell) Frey of Fort Collins, her sister Alice (Bill) Sweatman of Virginia, Illinois, and brothers Floyd Vette of Bluff Springs, Illinois and Clifford (Mary) Vette of Chandlerville, Illinois. A funeral service will be held on Friday, August 10th, 2012, 10:00a.m., at St. John's Lutheran Church, 305 East Elizabeth in Fort Collins. Memorial contributions can be made to Pathways Hospice at 305 Carpenter Road, Fort Collins, 80525 or St. John's Lutheran Church at 305 East Elizabeth, Fort Collins, 80524.

# Comments

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“ Don, Doug, & Family,

What a wonderful person you were blessed to have for so many years. She was a fine example of a Proverbs 31 woman. Rest; knowing she is enjoying eternity with her Saviour.

**Marshall Leydens** - August 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I have known Ruth and Don, and family for many years. Our families have gone to St. John's Lutheran Church. For years Ruth and Don have greeted us at church, they would call Harry, the lemmon and Marian the lime. Probably in our senior years, Ruth and I became close friends. We would share goofy things about Don and Harry. Sometimes our guys would drive us nuts, but we loved them for better or for worse. I will miss my friend. My brother, Ronald Weers lives at Parkwood. I will still see Donald, and Ronald often.

**Marian Lemmon** - August 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Ruth was a delightful and wonderful friend and was a wonderful mother to Janet, a close friend. Ruth will be missed. In retrospect, we did not visit enough, but the times we did were really enjoyable. I extend heartfelt prayers and sympathy to Don and Doug and Erin.

**John Parcels** - August 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Although I only got to know Ruth briefly, I was truly blessed by her unwavering faith during a very difficult time. I will remember her vibrant spirit and beautiful sense of humor.

**Carol Peddicord** - August 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ It was always a pleasure to visit with Ruth when we met, walking in the neighborhood. The conversation revolved around granddaughter, Erin, whom Ruth was very proud of.

Ruth always remembered who I was, even if we hadn't crossed paths in a long time. What a gift in our fast-paced world.

Much love to all the family, Kay Williams

**Kay Williams** - August 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Don and family,  
We were sorry but not surprised at Ruth's passing. Dode and Erma have kept us up to date. You have our deepest sympathy! We know she will be missed by all who loved her. We remember visiting you on Green Street. She was a gracious hostess. Sincerely, Don and Bettie

**Don and Bettie Utter** - August 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Don, I want to express my sympathy upon Ruth's death. I was always a pleasure to visit with here when I was back home. May the Lord Jesus comfort you and your family with His eternal peace.

**Gordon Besel** - August 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ Don and family, So sorry to hear about Ruth. I know how much my parents enjoyed you and Ruth. They always pointed out your home when we were walking, and told about your kindness. They do not drive anymore or would've been at Ruth's celebration of life. Take care. God Bless.

**George and Rita** - August 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM

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“ I will miss Ruth very much. Even though we have not seen each other very often over the past several years, I have always felt a connection in my heart and soul, knowing that Ruth would be there. Ruth and Don were like Mom and Dad to me; Janet was my best friend. Ruth was a comforting sage offering advice and wisdom. She was a calm and spirit filled woman; an anchor in my life. Don, Doug and Erin and Wendell, I pass to you my prayers and heartfelt sympathy. I thank all of you for allowing me into your family and for sharing Ruth with me.

**Melanye Johnson Parcels** - August 06, 2012 at 12:00 AM