



Rose L. Brinks

August 25, 2025

Rose Loretta Brinks, 90, was born January 23, 1935, youngest of 5 children, in a farm house near Stratton, Nebraska, to Frank Stehno and Mary (Sis) Stehno, and died August 25, 2025 from ovarian cancer. Her early life was Church, 4-H, books, horses, basketball and softball. She attended the Stratton Public School for 12 years, graduating in 1952. She graduated from Creighton University in 1956 and taught high school and junior high in Omaha, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, and Phoenix, and also at Ottawa University in Kansas.

She earned Masters Degrees in zoology (immunology) from the University of Kansas in 1965 and in Public Health (radiation biology) from Colorado State University, in 1969. She also attended Lamar State College of Technology in Beaumont, Texas; Arizona State University, and the University of Wyoming, often with various National Science Foundation scholarships.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Edmund and Raymond Stehno, sisters Regina Weskamp and Marie Stavas, nephew Frank Stehno, her first husband Alan Dean, who died in the family's small airplane in 1965, and second husband Dr. James S. Brinks (1934-2015), whom she married in 1969.

Survivors include her seven children: Dr. Alan Dean (Kathleen) of Ft. Collins, Rex Dean of Los Angeles, Mary Dean of Fort Collins, Dr. Andrew Dean

(Marta) of Laporte, Dr. Laura Pritchett of Bellvue, and twins John and Jim Brinks of LaPorte; 5 stepchildren: Denise Dean of Parks, AZ, Laurie Zurn (Frank) of Los Angeles, David Buckler of Fort Worth, Kevin Brinks (Kati) of Centennial, and Karen Wetzberger of Severance; 14 grandchildren: Sam, Sophia, Will, Max, Dan, Andrea, Kelly, Anna, Ruby, Jonathan, Brendan, Thomas, Jake and Eliana; 8 step-grandchildren: Josh, RJ, Tyler, Leah, Stephanie, Matthew, Chloe, and Zach; 1 great grandson, and 8 step-great-grandchildren.

Rose was known as a protector of the historic land that she and her husband owned in Laporte, Colorado, keeping it from being split by power lines and bike trails. The farm was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. A long-fought fight against the City of Greeley's claim of eminent domain for a 60-inch water pipe resulted in defeat. She was often on picket lines, for civil rights, and against the VietNam war, the burning of toxic waste at the cement plant, the forced use of face masks, and, for 50 years, against abortion.

Rose was a life-long Catholic, it was the foundation of her life. She was a member of the Fort Collins Historical Society, the Pioneers, and the Westerners. She wrote a book about the Bingham Hill Cemetery on the family farm, and gave innumerable talks and tours through the cemetery to schoolchildren and other groups. In 1994 a reunion was held for the Indian/French Canadian descendants of the 160-acre farm's first owners Provost and Claymore. She was "adopted" by the Oglala tribe and given the name "Holy Winged Horse Woman."

In the 1950s and 1960s, Rose loved to fly, accumulating some 500 hours in her Piper Cub and other small planes. She had "284 successful takeoffs, and 283 successful landings." At age 24, serving as co-pilot in a Piper Apache being delivered to Vaasa, Finland from Lock Haven, PA, she took spectacular

16-mm film footage of icebergs, and amused herself by chatting on the radio with sailors on navy ships below. Other travels included Germany, Andorra, Czechoslovakia, Israel, Egypt, Greece, Bali, Costa Rica, Italy, Spain, England, Wales, Scotland, Hawaii, Alaska, Croatia, Turkey, and most recently, Iceland.

She loved to read, raise canaries and peacocks, garden, print B&W photos, and most of all, to ride one of her Arabian horses at Lory State Park. She was often happiest driving a hay truck or with a live calf after a hard pull. Her late-life sadness was her husband's Alzheimers for 10 years during their 70s. She leaves behind 80 shoeboxes of photos and 80 years of diaries. The family would like to thank all the friends and neighbors who made her last years so active and memorable.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by close family friend Fr. Greg Ames on Thursday, August 28, starting at 10 AM, at St Josephs Church in Fort Collins, followed by interment at Grandview Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Rose requested donations to St. Walburga Abbey.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG **28**. 10:00 AM (MT)

Saint Joseph Catholic Church
300 West Mountain
Fort Collins, CO 80521

Interment will follow at Grandview Cemetery

Tribute Wall



“ *Goes Funeral Care & Crematory created a Webcast in memory of Rose L. Brinks*



Goes Funeral Care & Crematory - August 27, 2025 at 06:18 PM



Sending sincere condolences to Alan and all the family.

Pat Slentz - August 28, 2025 at 03:22 PM

CS

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Carron Silva - August 31, 2025 at 06:28 PM

AB

“ Dear family of Rose, I am so sorry for your loss of this amazing women. I loved having her as a neighbor. Although I haven't been in touch since her request for people to stay away after her treatment started, I thought of her often and knew she was in great care from her family. I know that she will be greatly missed by all of you as well as the communities she supported. Please accept our sincere sympathy,
Andrea and Pat

Andrea Bohn - August 31, 2025 at 01:20 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Ruby Reynoso - August 28, 2025 at 01:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Ruby Reynoso - August 28, 2025 at 01:08 PM



“ I've been spoiled to never have known a life without you, Grandma Rose...

My Grandma brought life to her Colorado farm not through her possessions, but through the wide variety of visitors and animals who passed through. You never knew who might be stopping by — a local real estate investor? Her dear priest friend, ready to give a Halloween mass at the graveyard on her property? A man needing a place to park the school bus he lives in? And what animals would be there that season? A pair of retired donkeys? A blind pigeon? Llamas from the Abbey of St Walburga? And there was, of course, always a peacock around.

Some of my favorite memories with her include: sleeping outside at night on her trampoline with my cousins under the stars; shooting off fireworks and leaving coins on the railroad tracks in Steamboat; her teaching me cursive and how to write a proper thank-you letter; taking me to horseback riding lessons; going on walks with her, Grandpa, and Albert the pigeon; teaching me how to drive at the equine center; her coming to help me manage an estate sale when my workers called out last minute; and meeting my son (her first biological great-grandchild!).

When I told my Grandma about a recent challenge I was facing, she said “well, it could be an adventure!”. She inspires me to fill my life with interesting people/animals, to be resilient (she marched straight through whatever life threw at her), and to be able to look at life for what it can be ... one big adventure.

I am so grateful to have been your granddaughter. You've been one of the best parts of my life. I miss you so much already.

I hope, Grandma, that you're in heaven and you get to reunite with the people you've loved. I hope you can slow dance with Grandpa Jim, the way you did after trying to show me how to polka dance, that up there his mind is sharp and free of Alzheimer's. I hope you

see your parents and siblings. That you can fly a plane with Alan Dean, and catch up about how all your kids turned out. That you can ride your favorite horses and feed your guineas and pet Jemma. Or maybe just sit in a hot bath and read a book.

I love you Grandma!



Ruby Reynoso - August 28, 2025 at 01:05 PM

EP

“ *I met Rose over 40 years ago helping an elderly lady whom some of us at John XXIII had befriended. It was a journey of love and we buried her in Bingham Hill Cemetery. This started a relationship of friendship and faith over these many years sharing together our love of the Lord and being His hands and feet here on earth with the homebound, homeless, and advocates for life from the moment of conception. I will miss her greatly and know that she will be praying and watching over all of us that will continue to fight the good fight here on earth. Rest in peace Rose. Know that you have made an indelible mark on my life....*



Eileen Pinedo - August 28, 2025 at 11:17 AM

LW

“ I am deeply saddened about the death of Rose. a very dear friend. She fought cancer with courage and much suffering for a very long time and I know she is at peace and in comfort now. She was a remarkable woman in every way..great love of family, of God, of the marginalized, of the needy. She generously gave much in time, talent, care, contributions, and help to others..most often anonymously . When she saw a need, she met it. She had the gift of hospitality and shared her land and property with hundreds of people over the years. She overcame many hard events in her lifetime, remaining strong and grounded in God and her beliefs. She worked for the good of others. She lived life to the fullest as long as she could and kept a sense of humor through all. She loved animals and people. I shall miss her very much and I know she will come to mind often through memories and thoughts. I am grateful to have met her and grown to be friends through our connection with Alzheimer's....and continued that friendship and support until she died. God has welcomed her into His heavenly fold where she will be without pain and continue on giving and helping others. The obituary is a lovely and true description of her life.and the picture of her a perfect choice..

With deep and heartfelt sympathy to each in her family,

Linda Wagner

Linda Wager - August 27, 2025 at 11:15 PM

KL

“ 1 file added to the album Memories of Rose



Karin A Livingston - August 27, 2025 at 08:32 PM

WW

“ Rose shared this with me in an email:
A granddaughter from Calif was here last month.....she sent the
silly video.....called HOW TO DISTURB MOM'S NAP. But you can
see Jemma was close, as always. (She should have bit John but
John is good to her).



Wendy Woods - August 27, 2025 at 08:21 PM

WW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Wendy Woods - August 27, 2025 at 08:15 PM

TR

“ Tina (Urbom) Russell lit a candle in memory
of Rose L. Brinks



Tina (Urbom) Russell - August 27, 2025 at 02:29 PM

IL

“ 3 files added to the album *Memories of Rose*



Ivy Lane - August 27, 2025 at 09:20 AM

LK

“ *I first met Rose in the mid 1970's when as a teenager I was both amazed and intimidated by her strength and conviction. Over the years I respected her fierce land advocacy and grit. Last week, Rose's appreciation for music led to a donation to the Debut Arts Centre. When music plays through the speakers, I will remember her and the impact she made on lives and our community. And I will smile. Condolences to all of her children.*

Lee Kaplan - August 26, 2025 at 04:56 PM

KW

“ *Truly enjoyed meeting Rose shortly after I move to the LaPorte area many years ago. I remember when Rose & one of her friends would ride her horse down Overland Trail & use my arena to exercise her horse (usually a couple times a week). My condolences to the family !!!!*

Ken Weil - August 26, 2025 at 02:32 PM

CM

“ *One of my fondest memories of Rose was when we were taking a walk in the back and i looked and my 2 dogs, her dog and her 5 guineas were all following her in single file line. The perfect image of what a strong leading lady she was. One of a kind*

Christmas McCain - August 25, 2025 at 09:42 PM

WW

“*Rose was one tough bird! Loved my conversations with her. She said it how she meant it. Nothing was ever held back. I remember calling her on one of her birthdays, had to be 85 or so, and she said she was floating down the Poudre with a bottle of wine! Girl after my own heart. ❤️ I know she was in a lot of pain and was ready to go, but I'll miss her spunk! RIP Rose Brinks.*

Wendy Woods - August 25, 2025 at 08:33 PM

WW

Guess it wasn't her birthday. Realized it was in August of 2022

Wendy Woods - August 26, 2025 at 05:30 PM

DR

“*Condolences to Rose's family.*

Our community has lost a fierce citizen, a person of integrity and passion, whose efforts were in the pursuit of making life better.

I'll remember Rose as a straight shooter, without an ounce of bs, and a motor that wouldn't quit.

She had a spark, a twinkle, that refused to be subsumed.

Rest in peace, Rose.

David Roy - August 25, 2025 at 06:59 PM

BC

Rose was first a friend to my late husband, Bill Schneider and she and I later became friends. I admired her efforts to restore the Bingham Hill Cemetery, part of her property and identify all the souls buried there. She and Bill worked on that project.

I will never know someone like Rose again in my life. She was a treasure.

My condolences to her huge family, whose life's were no doubt enriched

with all she shared and taught them.

Rest in peace Rose, we will miss you!

Barbara Schneider Cole

Barbara Schneider Cole - August 28, 2025 at 09:22 PM