

Lorraine was born Theresa Lorraine Smith on April 20, 1929 at Valentine, Nebraska to Clinton Smith and Elizabeth 'Bessie' (Howe) Smith. Being one of four girls in her class named Theresa, she made the decision to use her middle name most of the time. Lorraine was the middle child in her family, sister Elaine (Johnson) was older and brother Jim was her younger sibling. Lorraine enjoyed school, all of her many friends and their extra-curricular activities. She actively participated in Badger Pep Club, Glee Club, Journalism staff, High School Annual staff and worked in the school office as a senior.

After graduation in 1947, Lorraine began work at the Cherry County judges office for judge C.H. Elliot where she met Nebraska State Patrolman, Marvin Hansen, whom she married September 1949. She worked there until Marvin's untimely death in the line of duty in 1954, the day before his 29th birthday. She became a bookkeeper for Clements Furniture store a few months later and met Ray Ballard in 1956. After a short, whirlwind courtship (since they loved to dance and enjoy the company of many friends) Lorraine married Ray later in 1956. She continued to work at Clements until two days before she gave birth to son Scott in 1957. She went back to bookkeeping work for Mullin Steele and Sporting Goods for over 3 years when she left to join the staff of 'soon to be established' KVSH Radio Station in Valentine, as office manager and bookkeeper from 1961 to 1979 when she retired to become a full-time ranch wife in Cherry County.

In 1986, Ray and Lorraine moved to Springview, NE where she went back to work outside the home at the Keya Paha County High School. She later accepted a position in the Keya Paha County court house in the Clerk and Treasurers office and was appointed to fill out the remainder of the Clerk, Assessor and Clerk of the District Court officer's position when her predecessor retired. She was elected to one more term for a total of six years in office. She then worked from home as dispatcher and bookkeeper for her and Ray's trucking business until 2005. In addition to being a full-time homemaker, Lorraine worked 53 years supporting herself and her families.

Lorraine's favorite song was 'Stardust' and she loved to enjoy music while dancing and playing cards with good friends and family. Lorraine was quite the bowler too as she participated in the Women's National Tournament in Denver, CO in 1960 which was great because she also loved to travel. She took trips with her loving sister Elaine to wonderful places like Hawaii, the Kentucky Derby and a history filled trip to Washing DC and the surrounding area. She also loved to visit family which she loved unconditionally. Throughout her life she loved people and Husker Football and Volleyball, but maybe most of all, cooking and baking. She was a wonderful cook and many a good meal was eaten at Lorraine's table. Lorraine was born with a huge heart that welcomed anyone in, not mattering if you had two legs or four. She passed away on May 9, 2022 at 93 years of age. She was preceded in death by her first love Marvin Hansen, Ray her husband of 60 years, sister Elaine (Elmer) Johnson and brother Jim (Betty) Smith.

She is survived by stepsons Jim Ballard of Springview, NE and Steve (Marie) Ballard of Beaverton, OR; son Scott (MaryLynn) Ballard of O'Neill, NE; grandchildren: Grant Ballard, Corrine (Kirk) Robinson, Tim Ballard, Chris (Tita) Ballard, Nichole (Mike) Wambsgans and Chally (Ryan) Cox; great grandchildren: Ava, Jack, Lynnae, Luci and Layne; and nieces, nephews, relatives and wonderful friends.



In Living & Loving Memory Of

Lorraine

1929 ~ 2022



“STAR DUST”

Sung By Nat King Cole
(Lorraine’s Favorite Song)

And now the purple dusk of twilight time
Steals across the meadows of my heart
High up in the sky, the little stars climb
Always reminding me that we're apart

You wander down the lane and far away
Leaving me a song that will not die
Love is now the stardust of yesterday
The music of the years gone by

Sometimes I wonder why I spend
The lonely night dreaming of a song
The melody haunts my reverie
And I am once again with you

When our love was new
And each kiss an inspiration
But that was long ago, now my consolation
Is in the stardust of a song

Beside a garden wall
When stars are bright
You are in my arms
The nightingale tells his fairy tale
A paradise where roses bloom

Though I dream in vain,
In my heart, it will remain
My stardust melody
the memory of love's refrain

In Celebration Of Life

Lorraine S. Ballard

Memorial Service of Remembrance

Saturday - May 28, 2022 @ 10:00am
Holmes Funeral Home Chapel
Valentine, Nebraska

Officiant

Pastor Tim Wyrick

Musical Selections

Kristin Jerred – Organist

‘Amazing Grace’ ~ ‘Old Rugged Cross’

‘Star Dust’ -~ *by Nat King Cole*

‘Almost Home’ ~ *by Mercy Me*

‘Derby Call to the Post’

Urn Bearers

Chris Ballard Michael Wambsgans

Honorary Urn Bearers

Grant Ballard Corrine Robinson

Tim Ballard Nichole Wambsgans

Chally Cox

Inurnment

Mount Hope Cemetery

Valentine, Nebraska

Arrangements By

Holmes Funeral Home ~ Valentine, NE

www.HolmesFH.com