



## Ruth Vanderheiden

September 12, 1933 - November 21, 2014

Ruth Vanderheiden, age 81, of Carroll, died Friday, November 21, 2014 at her residence surrounded by her family.

Mass of the Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Tuesday, November 25, 2014 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Carroll. The Celebrant will be Fr. Timothy Johnson. Mass Servers will be Dawson Miller and Patrick McAlister. Music will be by Barb McDermott, Holy Spirit Choir with Thomas Geake as soloist. Lector for the funeral mass will be Linda Berger. Gift Bearers will be granddaughters: Erin McAlister, Kaitlin Geake, and Jessica McAlister. Eucharistic Minister will be Mike Berger. Casket Bearers will be grandsons: Jake Galligan, Ryan, Andy, and Martin McAlister, Aaron Miller, Corey, Nick, and Lukas Vanderheiden, and Dillon Walsh. The Carroll Catholic Daughters of the Americas and the St. Anthony Hospital Auxiliary will form an honor guard for the funeral mass. Burial will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Manning.

Friends may call at the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll after 4 p.m. on Monday where there will be a rosary at 5 p.m. by the Carroll Catholic Daughters of the Americas and a Christian Wake Service at 7 p.m. by Holy Spirit Parish.

The casket will be moved to Holy Spirit Church at 10 a.m. on Tuesday where visitation will resume until time of the funeral mass.

Memorials may be left at the funeral home or the church for New Hope Village or Carroll Area Iowans for Life.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of the Sharp Funeral Home in Carroll and online condolences may be left for Ruth's family at [www.sharpfuneral.com](http://www.sharpfuneral.com).

Ruth was born on September 12, 1933 at Manning, Iowa the daughter of John and Clara (Lechtenberg) Sextro. She spent her younger years in the Manning area attending country school and later graduated from Manning High School in 1953.

Ruth was employed at General Electric in Carroll from 1973 until its closing in 1998. She was also active with the Catholic Daughters of America, St. Anthony Hospital Auxiliary, New Hope Village, Holy Spirit Rug Makers, and assisted with Bingo at St. Anthony Nursing Home in Carroll.

Ruth belonged to four card clubs and also enjoyed cross stitching, gambling, puzzles, watching television, Iowa State Basketball and going to the Rec. Center in Carroll. Her greatest joy was her family and she always enjoyed attending her grandchildren's ballgames and their other various activities. Her greatest accomplishment in life was raising her eight children as a single parent.

Survivors include her daughters: Ann (Pat) McAlister of Bayard, Beverly (Gordy) Miller of Storm Lake, Cynthia (Darren) Hudson of Mesa, AZ, and Faith (Jim) Steinkamp of Carroll; her sons: Duane Vanderheiden and friend Kathy Spindler of Omaha, NE, Edward Vanderheiden of Carroll, and Gary (Julie) Vanderheiden of Arlington, TX; her grandchildren: Jake (Bridget) Galligan of Whittemore, Ryan McAlister of Coon Rapids, Andy (Jamie) McAlister of Coon Rapids, Erin McAlister of Portland OR, Kaitlin (Thomas) Geake of Wall Lake,

Jessica McAlister of Maryville MO and her fiancé Tyler Ruse of Tabor, Martin and Patrick McAlister of Bayard, Aaron and Dawson Miller of Storm Lake, Corey, Nick, and Lukas Vanderheiden of Omaha, NE, and Dillon Walsh of Carroll; 17 great-grandchildren; her sister: Marie Sextro of Carroll; her brothers: Leo Sextro of Manning, Leonard (Laurie) Sextro of Manning, and Norbert (Dora) Sextro of Surprise, AZ; her in-laws: Karen Vanderheiden of Carroll, Richard Vanderheiden of Auburn, Mike (Marlene) Vanderheiden of Carroll, and Patrick Vanderheiden of Lake City; as well as many nieces, nephews, other extended relatives and many friends.

Ruth was preceded in death by her son Thomas Vanderheiden; her grandchildren: Thomas James McAlister and Sarah Rose Miller; her parents; her siblings: Edna Sextro, Helen (Joe) Lampe, Ed Sextro, Herb (Janet) Sextro, Dorothy (Leon) Masching, and Maxine Meier; and her niece, Terri Buffington.

# Tribute Wall

SF

“ I would like to offer my deepest sympathies to you. I am so sorry for your loss. Please know that you are never alone. Turn to the Holy Scriptures for guidance and to help soothe your heart. Psalms 34:18 assures us that God is near to those broken at heart and crushed in spirit. Please accept my deepest sympathies.

S Ford - November 30, 2014 at 01:48 PM

CH

“ I had only met Ruth a couple of times so I did not know her very well. However, she must have been a strong, courageous woman to raise her children alone. I do know my special daughter in law and if Cynthia is an indication of her mom's parenting skills then Ruth did a wonderful job.

Claudette hudson - November 26, 2014 at 10:10 AM

 Lisa Danzer

“ Hugs to the entire Vanderheiden family. The last time I saw Ruth was at my mom's funeral in Feb. She was wearing her Catholic Daughters jacket and I commented on how nice she looked in it. I was grateful for her and all the Catholic Daughters for being there in a time of need. With all the work she did for the church and the Carroll community and raising 8 kids, she was truly an unsung hero. She did so many small things in great ways, I know that the angels in heaven have welcomed her with great triumph. RIP Ruth.

Lisa Danzer - November 25, 2014 at 10:05 AM

CF

“ *Bev and family, your mom was such a lovely woman. I always admired her work ethic and her strength. My heartfelt condolences for your loss. Peace to you all.*  
*Carrie Frillman*



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**Carrie Frillman** - November 24, 2014 at 09:55 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ruth Vanderheiden.*



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November 24, 2014 at 08:18 PM

DM

“ *You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Ruth was a wonderful woman and I always had high respect and admiration for her. Whatever your relation to her - child, grandchild, etc.- you were and are very blessed to have had her in your life! I imagine several of you learned how to be strong and caring through her, and will continue to carry on those same qualities throughout the rest of your time on this earth.*  
*Blessings and peace,*  
*Dawn Moore*

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**Dawn Moore** - November 24, 2014 at 02:58 PM

LD

“ Faith, I met your mother for the first time at GE we started to work there on the same day. Your mother was a wonderful person & a friend of mine. Cherish the memories that you have of your mother no one can take those away from you. I send my sympathy to the rest of the family. RIP Ruth.

Linda Disburg - November 24, 2014 at 02:09 PM

KF

“ Katelyn Fish and family purchased the Let It Snow for the family of Ruth Vanderheiden.



Katelyn Fish and family - November 24, 2014 at 01:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ruth Vanderheiden.



November 24, 2014 at 10:50 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ruth Vanderheiden.



November 24, 2014 at 10:08 AM

OD

“ *Omaha Steaks Benefits & Comp Dept. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ruth Vanderheiden.*



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**Omaha Steaks Benefits & Comp Dept.** - November 24, 2014 at 09:39 AM

ES

“ *Bev-- My condolences during this difficult time to you and your family. Although I never met your mother I know she had to have been pretty special to raise someone as special as you. You and your family are in my thoughts.*

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**Eric Schulenberg** - November 24, 2014 at 09:19 AM

WW

“ *Bev- My sympathies to you and your family. May God hold all of you in the palm of his hands.*

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**Wendy Withers** - November 24, 2014 at 07:17 AM

GS

“ *My thoughts and prayers to all of the family. I will always remember that whoever or wherever your mom was she always had a fantastic smile & a kind word for you! A friend to all:)*

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**Geri Shirbroun** - November 23, 2014 at 09:03 PM

  
Rhonda  
Schnabl

“ Cynthia and family, So sorry for your loss...  
I'm sure she will be missed greatly. May God  
give you peace and comfort during this  
difficult time....



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**Rhonda Schnabl** - November 23, 2014 at 07:58 PM

DP

“ To the Vanderheiden family,  
Your mom was a sweat lady. She will definitely be missed.  
Whenever I had to run to Des Moines for supplies I would call your  
Mom, Marie and my mom would go with me and we would stop and  
eat at different places which the Sextro girls always liked to eat, and  
we would hit Prairer Medows for some gambling. One time I  
remember mom and  
Ruthy were winning and poor Marie couldn't win a thing. I enjoyed  
their company on the trips to Des Moines. Ruth and I always had  
good talks when she came to get her hair done. I will sure miss her  
but Ruthy and Mom are having good times in heaven now. My  
deepest sympathy to the family in this sad time.

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**donna pemble** - November 23, 2014 at 04:20 PM

AG

“ Thoughts and prayers are with all of you in this difficult time. You will  
always have her in your heart! God Bless!

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**Ann Gohr** - November 23, 2014 at 01:48 PM