



## Erma Kelsey

September 5, 1925 - August 24, 2017

Erma Kelsey, 91, of Bolivar, Mo passed away Thursday, August 24, 2017 at Parkview Health Facility in Bolivar, MO.

Erma was born September 5, 1925 to Ralph and Grace (Murk) Nowell. She would spend her early life in Eldorado Springs. Following her marriage to J.M. Kelsey, she moved to Bolivar where Erma lived for over 20 years. During her time in Bolivar, she was employed by the Polk County Bank and later, as a caseworker by the Polk County office of the Missouri Division of Family Services. Following the dissolution of her marriage to J.M, she moved to Rolla where she continued to work for the Division of Family Services. She later moved to Blue Springs as a result of a promotion to the position of Director of the Western Missouri region of the Child Support Enforcement Unit of the Missouri Division of Family Services. Following her retirement, Erma moved to Nixa and later to Springfield. As her need for care increased with age, she moved to Butterfield Residential Care Center in Bolivar to be nearer her family. As her health continued to deteriorate she became a resident of Parkview Health Care Facility which became her home for the final three years of her life.

Erma had three children, twins Synda L. (Kelsey) Douglas and Lynda S. (Kelsey) Douglas, and a son, James M. Kelsey. She was predeceased by Synda and by her parents. She is survived by her daughter Lynda and her

husband Kerry Douglas of Bolivar, her son Jim and his wife Megan Rundel of Orinda California, and by four grandchildren, Thomas H. Douglas and his wife Michele of Springfield, K. Patrick Douglas and his wife Gelin of Bolivar, Kimberly A. Collins of Seattle, Washington and Jonah M. Kelsey of Orinda, California. She is also survived by six great-grandchildren.

Erma loved being a mother and a grandmother. Her children and grandchildren were always the surest way to bring a smile to her face. Erma lived a full and fruitful life and will be remembered by some of her grandchildren as the cool grandma who jogged and who made the best French toast the world has ever tasted. Having grown up in El Dorado Springs, she loved the summer band concerts and some of her fondest memories were of the picnic around the square. Erma was well respected by her colleagues at work, rose through the ranks to a position of leadership, and maintained friendships with many of her co-workers well after her retirement. She also loved cats and dogs and was insistent that she should be able to take her cat with her to Butterfield and Parkview. Erma was a lifelong supporter of and contributor to military support groups, food banks, homeless shelters, animal care facilities and in her retirement volunteered as a worker at the Salvation Army facility in Springfield.

Erma was a member of the First Christian Church of Bolivar throughout her adult life. Private family services will be held September 9.

For friends wishing to memorialize Erma, the family suggests contributions to the Polk County Humane Society in care of Butler Funeral Home or sent directly to the Humane Society.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Erma Kelsey*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Erma Kelsey*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Your kW Family purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Erma Kelsey.*



Your kW Family - September 06, 2017 at 12:33 PM



“ *so sorry lynda god bless eddie*

eddie robertson - August 30, 2017 at 08:51 PM

HS

“ Dear Family of Erma Lou,  
I have so many fond memories of Erma Lou, beginning as a very young girl. Erma Lou worked with my Mom, LaurNell (Blackburn) Strack at the welfare office above the drug store on the Bolivar square (North Main & West Broadway) across from Hacker's Dress Shop. That's where Mom worked when I was born in 1952. As a child, I remember walking from our home on East Locust to visit Mom, Erma Lou, Ethel Mae, Patsy & other employees on many occasions. Looking out of those 2nd story windows seeing the entire Bolivar Square & beyond was a treat. Fast forward many years later. When I retired from the USAF 11+ years ago & Mom was still living, we'd run into Erma Lou on occasion & reminisce. Mom was at Parkview when she passed away almost 7 years ago. Since that time, many of my friends & friends' parents have also lived at Parkview. I can't recall when Erma Lou went to live at Parkview, yet I always stopped by to see her during my visits there. Until very recently, Erma Lou remembered me & we'd talk about Mom & their life-long friendship. Erma Lou, Mom, Synda & many others are celebrating in Heaven together. I'll see you when God calls me Home!



You're all in my Prayers & Thoughts at this time.  
Helen Ann Strack

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Helen Ann Strack - August 25, 2017 at 05:38 PM