



## Susan Lorraine Esser

March 27, 1939 - January 3, 2026

Susan Lorraine Esser, (Smith), 86, of Fairplay, MO, beloved mother and grandmother passed away January 3, 2026 at the Lake Stockton Healthcare Facility. Susan was born on March 27, 1939 in Albuquerque, NM to C.J. and Pauline Smith. She met and married the love of her life, Garry Lee Esser on May 5, 1960 and they were only four days from celebration their 60th wedding anniversary when he passed on May, 1, 2020. Together they had three children and surviving her are: John C. Esser (Lisa) of Nebraska City, NE, Cynthia R. Frantz (Carl) of Derby, KS, and Fred W. Esser (Stacie) of Fairplay, MO. She also had five grandchildren: Chris Esser, Nick Esser, Justin Frantz (Johanna), Jordan Frantz (Emily) and Haylee Esser. Susan and Garry had nearly six decades together in which they walked side by side, hand in hand. They were each other's best friend, steady rock, dreams, hopes and love. They were truly an inspiration to their children and grandchildren. They enjoyed traveling, camping, going on cruises, working on their property and being with their family. Her greatest love was her grandchildren and she was so proud of them and she was overjoyed to learn how to use texting as a lady in her golden years to keep in touch with her them. She always said she was extremely lucky to have such wonderful grandchildren. She was the one who everyone could talk to and share with. Her innocent exterior hid an ornery streak which both delighted and horrified her children. She was truly a character. She enjoyed gardening and there was no flower, plant or shrub that she could not grow, fix or nurture. Susan also loved animals and her home

had at least one kitty, There were no kitties that she could not charm and they loved her as much as she loved them. Later she added her dog, Pepper, who was loved and spoiled as much as the kitties were. Susan enjoyed mystery novels and true crime shows and would read and re-read her favorites often. She had a passion for gnomes (pronouncing the "g"), collection them for her gardens and decoration her living space with them. She was a wonderful mother and grandmother to her family and she will be missed very much but live on in each of us. There will be a celebration of life held 2:00 PM Friday, January 9, 2026 at the Butler Funeral Home. She will be laid to rest at a later date next to her beloved husband, Gary in the Springfield Veterans Cemetery.

# Previous Events

## Celebration Of Life

JAN 9. 2:00 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar  
407 E. Broadway  
Bolivar, MO 65613  
(417) 326-5233  
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

KS

“ Kathy Starks purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Susan Lorraine Esser.



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**Kathy Starks** - January 09 at 11:50 AM

KS

“ Kathy Starks planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan Lorraine Esser.

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**Kathy Starks** - January 09 at 11:50 AM

LC

“ Lincoln, Julie and Lois Caldwell purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Susan Lorraine Esser.



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**Lincoln, Julie and Lois Caldwell** - January 08 at 10:08 AM

DC

“ Dewey and Kathleen Caster purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Susan Lorraine Esser.



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**Dewey and Kathleen Caster** - January 07 at 08:21 PM

DC

“ Dewey and Kathleen Caster planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan Lorraine Esser.

Dewey and Kathleen Caster - January 07 at 08:21 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Susan Lorraine Esser.



January 06 at 03:03 PM

QE

“ Quenten and Debby Esser planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan Lorraine Esser.

Quenten and Debby Esser - January 06 at 03:03 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Susan Lorraine Esser.



January 05 at 05:30 PM

LF

“ Love Chris, Nick, Darin, Marg and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan Lorraine Esser.

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**Love Chris, Nick, Darin, Marg and Family** - January 05 at 05:30 PM