

Geralyn (Geri) Kraai, daughter of William and Henrietta (Plender) Ter Horst, was born March 9, 1945 in Orange City, Iowa. Geri grew up just outside of Orange City and attended school at Orange City Christian, Northwest Academy for 3 years and then Floyd Valley where she graduated in 1963. After high school, Geri started working for the city of Orange City as a city clerk. During those years she met and became engaged to the love of her life, Donald Kraai of Orange City. On September, 3 of 1964, Geri and Don were married. In the beginning years of their marriage Geri and Don did quite a bit of moving around. They spent a short time in Louisiana while Don attended Graduate School for teaching, when Don was finished there they moved to Cleghorn, Iowa. During Don's early years of teaching they packed up a few more times and lived in Lake Park, Iowa, Mitchell, South Dakota, and then settled down in Paulina, Iowa for close to 5 years. These were busy years for Geri as she and Don welcomed 3 of their children, Deanne, Chad and Ryan through all the transitions and moving! In 1977 they made their final move to Rock Valley, where their 4th child Nicole was born, and Geri has lived for 45 years.

Geri owned and operated a craft and matting/framing store for close to 20 years in Rock Valley and during those years she raised her children, watched them grow, get married and have children of their own. Her wonderful grandchildren (and great-grandchildren) were the light of her life and she was very proud of them all. In June of 2002, her husband Don sadly passed away from Colon cancer. Shortly after his passing, Geri started working for Jolene Bruns dental office of Inwood. She thoroughly enjoyed her work there and met and made new friends. In 2009 Geri became involved with Mission Haiti and found her calling. Over the course of the next 5 years she made over 8 trips to Haiti to bring the gospel and be "the hands and feet of Jesus." Many special memories were made as she traveled with her family and friends. When the trips were no longer able to be taken, Geri got together with some special people in her life and started the Clothing Closet ministry at Faith Church. She became passionately involved with it until she was diagnosed with Pulmonary Fibrosis in 2018. Geri filled her last years with her love of crafts, sewing, puzzles and making personalized gifts to show how much she cared. Geri passed away Sunday, September 11, 2022, at Crown Pointe Care Center of Sioux Center, Iowa at the age of 77.

She is survived by her 4 children and their families; **daughter**, Deanne (Joel) Herr of Indianola, IA and their children Jennifer (James) Peters (Elizabeth, Flynn, Coen, Carolina) and Kathrin Herr, **son**, Chad (Rachel) Kraai of Rock Valley, IA and their children, Don (Shayne), Lily, Daisy, Violet and Lucas Kraai, **son**, Ryan Kraai and his daughter Mia Kraai, and **daughter**, Nicole (Kevin) Blankespoor of Rock Valley, IA and their children Kole and Kylie Blankespoor; 3 siblings, brother Stan (Dorothy) Ter Horst of Sioux Falls, SD, brother-in-law Bill Van Zanten of Orange City, IA, sister-in-law Lorna Ter Horst of Orange City, IA, Don's sister Betty (Lawrence "Bub") Korver and many nieces, nephews and wonderful, loving friends.

Geri was preceded in death by her parents, William and Henrietta Ter Horst; husband, Donald Kraai; and siblings, Margene Van Zanten and Art Ter Horst.

In Loving Memory



Geralyn "Geri" Kraai

March 9, 1945 ~ September 11, 2022

FUNERAL SERVICE

10:30 AM, Friday, September 16, 2022
Faith Reformed Church
Rock Valley, Iowa

OFFICIATING

Rev. Keith Sietstra

PIANIST

Lynette Dolieslager

CONGREGATIONAL HYMNS

"Amazing Grace"
"The Old Rugged Cross"
"Victory In Jesus"

PALLBEARERS

Chad Kraai ~ Ryan Kraai
Joel Herr ~ Kevin Blankespoor
Don Kraai ~ Kole Blankespoor ~ Lucas Kraai

INTERMENT

Valley View Cemetery
Rock Valley, Iowa

Geri's family invites everyone for a time of food and fellowship at Faith Reformed Church's Family Life Center following the committal service at Valley View Cemetery.

Footprints

*fear not,
for I am with you;
be not dismayed,
for I am your God;
I will strengthen you,
I will help you,
I will uphold you
with my righteous right hand.*

Isaiah 41:10



*One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets
of footprints in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.
After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many times
along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.
This really troubled me,
so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most
troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed
You the most, You would leave me."
He whispered, "My precious child,
I love you and will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and testings.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."*