



## Janice "Jan" Heinen

June 2, 1941 - February 7, 2026

Janice R. Sunneberg Heinen, lovingly known as Jan, passed away peacefully on Saturday, February 7, 2026, leaving behind a legacy of deep faith, strength, and unconditional love. She was born on June 2, 1941, in Pawnee City, Nebraska, the twelfth child of Clem and Marie Mitchell Sunneberg and from an early age learned the value of family, kindness, and devotion to others.

Jan graduated from St. Peter and Paul High School in Seneca, Kansas in 1959, where she met the love of her life, Gerald "Jerry" Heinen. They were married on November 24, 1959, at St. Bridget Catholic Church, beginning a beautiful marriage of more than 65 years. Together, they made their home in Topeka, Kansas, where they raised their family and built a life centered on faith, love, and service.

After marriage, Jan dedicated 11 years to teaching nursery school. She later worked for the State of Kansas, Department of Revenue for 17 years, where she was respected for her dedication and integrity.

Jan was a devoted wife and caring mother to her two daughters, Brenda Sweezey (Mark) and Tammy Koch (Jeff). She was an incredibly loving grandmother to Tyler Sweezey (Lindsey), Kyle Koch (Kaleigh), Dalton Sweezey, and Isaac Koch (Jenna), and a cherished great-grandmother to Dalton (DJ) Sweezey Jr., Raylynn Sweezey, Aurelia Sweezey, and Hayes Sweezey. Her joy was fullest when surrounded by her family, especially while cheering on her grandchildren and great-grandchildren at their sporting events.

In retirement, Jan was an avid K-State fan and enjoyed watching sports on television. She never missed an opportunity to be present for her family, whether it was at a game, a gathering, or a simple moment together.

Jan was beautiful inside and out. She lived with kindness, grace, and quiet strength. She loved fiercely with her whole heart and unwavering faith. She was kind, gentle, calm, and always smiling. Her warmth could be felt in her hugs, her laughter, her positivity and the

way she made everyone feel loved. Jan held so much love for others that it radiated from her; you could simply feel it whenever you were around her. She was truly one of a kind.

Jan was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Jerry; her parents Clem and Marie Sunneberg; her brothers Gerald and Bob; and her sisters Esther, Rosemary, Joan, Alberta, Norene, Gerva, and Bernita; and brother-in-law, Paul.

She is survived by her daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren; her brothers, Bill (Elsie) and Regis (Jane); brother-in-law, Gene Lackey; sisters-in-law, Karen Rilinger, and Marilyn Evans (Gary); and many loving nieces and nephews who will miss her dearly.

Visitation will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., followed by a rosary at 10:30 a.m. and Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, February 20, 2026, at Christ the King Catholic Church, 5973 SW 25th Street, Topeka, Kansas 66614. Burial will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Jan loved the color purple; the family encourages everyone who joins on Friday to wear purple in Jan's honor.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Parkinson's Foundation, in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online at: [www.kevinbrennanfamily.com](http://www.kevinbrennanfamily.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS 66606

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 20. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
5973 SW 25th St  
Topeka, KS 66614-1973  
(785) 273-0710

## Rosary

FEB 20. 10:30 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
5973 SW 25th St  
Topeka, KS 66614-1973  
(785) 273-0710

## Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 20. 11:00 AM (CT)

Christ the King Catholic Church  
5973 SW 25th Street  
Topeka, KS 66614

# Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Janice "Jan" Heinen



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - February 11 at 03:45 PM

CN

“ I did not know Jan very well, but remember her and Jerry, who had worked with my Dad, as being very supportive of my parents

Charles Nunemaker - March 05 at 01:45 PM



“ Dear Brenda and Tammy & Families, I extend my sincere sympathy to you and family in the passing of your mother, Janice! She will be missed. I will not be at the funeral service. Will think about you. A friend , Mary Ann Heien

Mary Ann Heinen - February 19 at 04:40 PM

TF

“ The Jacobs Family purchased the Divine Light for the family of Janice "Jan" Heinen.



The Jacobs Family - February 18 at 05:58 PM

TF

“ The Jacobs Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janice "Jan" Heinen.

The Jacobs Family - February 18 at 05:58 PM

MJ

“ Aunt Jani will be sorely missed. Her smile, laughter, and kindness were truly cherished.

Mary Carmel Johnson - February 16 at 08:41 PM



“ Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of Janice "Jan" Heinen.



February 16 at 11:48 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Janice "Jan" Heinen.

February 16 at 11:48 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Janice "Jan" Heinen.

February 15 at 10:41 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Janice "Jan" Heinen.



February 15 at 10:41 PM

SM

“ My deepest sympathies to family and friends. I had the pleasure of working with Jan many years ago. Her kindness and compassion are what I recall most and with fond memories.

Susan Maxon - February 15 at 10:16 AM

KH

“ Very sorry to hear of Jan's passing. She was a wonderful lady! Love and prayers to all of the family!

Kevin & Laura Heinen - February 12 at 11:06 AM

PD

“ I met your parents several years ago when I lived on 28th Street. I walked past their house nearly every day and when they were out in the yard we would always have a nice conversation. I always appreciated their kindness. Peg Davis

Peg Davis - February 12 at 08:11 AM

SK

“ Your Mom was a warm and special woman. I will miss her but am so happy that I got to visit with her a few weeks ago. Sheryl Keegan

Sheryl Keegan - February 11 at 04:42 PM

TA

“ I am so very sorry for your loss. Brenda, Mark, and Dalton, please know you are all in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. May you find comfort in the memories you shared and in the love that surrounds your family right now. - Tana Griffith, Mike Hablitzel and kids

Tana - February 11 at 03:35 PM

CH

“ Cyrilla and Randy Haverkamp planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janice "Jan" Heinen.

Cyrilla and Randy Haverkamp - February 11 at 02:34 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Janice "Jan" Heinen.



February 11 at 02:34 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Janice "Jan" Heinen.



February 11 at 12:26 PM

JW

“ Jerry and Evelyn Whitmer planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janice "Jan" Heinen.

Jerry and Evelyn Whitmer - February 11 at 12:26 PM

LL

“ Brenda, Tammy, and family, Your mom was such a wonderful, loving, caring aunt. You just couldn't ask for a better person! Always so happy and cheerful! She will be truly missed! Sending our thoughts and prayers to help you through the difficult days! Love you all! Jeff and Lisa

Lisa Lummis - February 11 at 11:17 AM

LW

“ Louie Warren purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Janice "Jan" Heinen.



Louie Warren - February 11 at 10:11 AM

KG

“ Jan was such an inspiration to all that knew her. Staying with my dad as an adult and having your mom across the street was such a blessing. Jan was so thoughtful and I felt that she was always cheering us on. She never missed a moment to tell us she loved us. Her loving nature and faith were an inspiration.

Kate Grover - February 11 at 06:53 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Janice "Jan" Heinen.



February 10 at 06:41 PM