



Mary Dinkel

May 27, 1925 - January 12, 2023

Seizing all she could out of life, Mary Dinkel died Thursday, January 12, 2023, at age 97.

Mary was born May 27, 1925, to Peter and Maybelle (Weis) Karnowski in Hartford, Kansas. Family always mattered most to Mary. She looked forward to reunions and opportunities to connect.

After graduating from Paxico High School, Mary worked at the Boeing Aircraft Plant in Wichita, Kansas during World War II. A real-life Rosie the Riveter, she took pride in her contributions to the war effort, especially with four brothers serving in the Armed Forces. Following the war, she worked at Myers Yearbook in Topeka.

Mary was a homemaker most of her life, and she always focused on truly making her house a home for those who were there. She especially loved decorating for the holidays. She made ceramics for many years to add to the holiday spirit. She even took the time to make sets for the homes of each of her six children. These are reminders of her love of family and celebration.

She found joy in being involved in her community and giving back to the church. Mary was a longtime parishioner and founding member of St. Matthew Catholic Church. Her involvement included Holy Family Guild, St. Michael

Guild, Daughters of Isabella Little Flower Circle #503, and playing cards to connect with other members of the church. One of her favorite leisure activities was the bus trips she and her husband took with the Junquers. She loved the places they were able to go, the fellowship she found, and sharing highlights with family when they returned.

Mary was preceded in death by her husband of 72 years, Bill, on December 2, 2022. They were married May 29, 1950, at Holy Name Catholic Church. Always by each other's side, Mary cherished the memories they made with family and friends through the years, and she always ensured they had a full calendar of events to attend. We know their reunion in Heaven was sweet as they are together for all eternity.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents, her sisters Nora and Lucy, and five brothers, Charles, Dave, James, Phil, and Steve.

Mary is survived by her sister Virginia Billings; her six children, Billy (Marcia) Dinkel of Berryton, Becky (Don) Norris of Goodyear, Arizona, Patty (Alan) Bullock of Berryton, Tom (Jeni) Dinkel of Villa Hills, Kentucky, Susie (Richard) Brown of Shawnee, and Cindy Billau of St. George; 13 grandchildren, Judd, Matt, Tanner, Angie, Chad, Andrea, Amanda, Kylie, Bret, Taylor, Collin, Alex and Colby; 21 great-grandchildren; and an extensive network of extended family and friends.

The people in Mary's life made her the happiest. She always got excited when her phone rang and it was a family member or friend on the line. The walls of her kitchen were always full of the greeting cards and pictures family and friends had sent for holidays.

Mary's family thanks all of those people who have cared for and checked in on her especially as she has navigated life in her later years.

Mary never wanted time with family and friends to end, saying, “You’re leaving already?” as others came to say goodbye. We will sometimes have the same sentiments as Mary is gone from here. We’ll hold on to the memories as she has always been there for our milestones, celebrations, and happy moments. We find comfort knowing she’ll watch over us from above.

Together again, Mary and Bill shared services Saturday, January 14, at St. Matthew Catholic Church. Inurnment will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Lester and Barbara Wetter Memorial Scholarship Fund (for the Shawnee Heights Public Schools Foundation), to St. Matthew Church or to Gentiva Hospice, all sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 14. 9:00 AM - 10:15 AM (CT)

St. Matthew Catholic Church
2700 SE Virginia Ave
Topeka, KS 66605

Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Chalice Ceremony and Rosary

JAN 14. 10:15 AM (CT)

St. Matthew Catholic Church
2700 SE Virginia Ave
Topeka, KS 66605

Family Reflections

JAN 14. 10:45 AM (CT)

St. Matthew Catholic Church
2700 SE Virginia Ave
Topeka, KS 66605

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Matthew Catholic Church
2700 SE Virginia Ave
Topeka, KS 66605

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Dinkel*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - January 13, 2023 at 07:03 PM



“ *Mary Dinkel*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Patty, Tom, Billy and all of Mr. & Mrs. Dinkel's family, please accept Elena's and my deepest heartfelt thoughts, prayers and condolences on their passing.*

Once again they are together again, as they were in life. They exemplified the meaning of a loving couple and passed it along to their family, friends and community. May the perpetual light shine upon them both.



Pete Jr & Elena Tavares - January 23, 2023 at 10:22 PM

HR

“ I was privileged to be Mary’s home health nurse for a period of time after her knee replacement surgery. What a wonderful experience it was, to meet her and care for her. I always looked forward to being with her each day.

Through the years I would remember the Dinkels and wonder how they were. 97 years! What a blessing she was.

I will always remember her fondly...my favorite memory is of the time she told me about each of the family members on her photo wall (and there were many).

With eternal love, Helen Ramshaw, RN, CRNI Mid America Homecare.

Helen Ramshaw - January 21, 2023 at 09:22 AM

JP

“ Dear Mary & Bill’s Family,
Our deepest sympathy to each of you.
What a blessing it has been knowing them! We have wonderful memories of each of them. You are in our prayers.

Jack and Jane Pierce - January 17, 2023 at 05:43 AM

TP

“ To all the Dinkel's. What a special lady she was. Always loved seeing her when I worked breakfast. She will truly be missed, but praise God she is with her savior, and her precious husband.



Terri Pease - January 16, 2023 at 01:58 PM

EM

“ Billy, my sincere condolences to you and family. After 70+ years together probably joining your Dad so fast was meant to be.

Eddie Michael - January 16, 2023 at 11:57 AM

BW

“ *Bruce Williams lit a candle in memory of Mary Dinkel*



Bruce Williams - January 15, 2023 at 01:34 PM

BW

“ *Dinked Family
Bill I'm saddened by the news of your Mother and Fathers passing. I was unaware of your fathers passing I've always felt honored to have been able to work with you & your father and I am deeply saddened by your loss of both of you parents I always enjoyed being around you and your crews as I never had to question the integrity of you and your crews. May the sun always shine on your face with the wind at your back as you work to make this world a better place. I miss you and your crews since my retirement there were no other construction jobs that I could trust more than your company My thoughts are with you and your family in this time of loss*
Bruce Williams

Bruce Williams - January 15, 2023 at 01:31 PM

BH

“ *Becky and Family, We are very sorry for the loss of your parents. Joe & Becky Hernandez*

Becky Hernandez - January 14, 2023 at 05:53 PM

TB

“ Sorry for your loss Becky and family, may her memories stay in your heart until you meet again. Lifting you and families up in prayer. Our Sympathy, Terri and Mike Blake

Terri Blake - January 14, 2023 at 05:15 PM

ZF

“ Bill and Mary were my neighbors for forty years, I will surely miss them! Zoltan Febert

Zoltan Febert - January 14, 2023 at 12:28 PM

RS

“ Dinkel Family,
We are thinking about you now that Mary has followed Bill to Heaven!
God Bless,
Rick and Kathy Strecker

Rick Strecker - January 14, 2023 at 12:21 PM

DW

“ Billy, Marcia and Dinkel kiddos - Mrs. Dinkel along with Mr. Dinkel provided such joy and greatness to everyone who had the privelage of meeting and getting to know them. While their journey is done here, their heavenly journey will be even more fantastic. This world was so BLESSED by both, cherish, love, laugh, and make the best of life as they did!! LOVE & RESPECT & very THANKFUL for this family - the DINKEL family -GODS blessings to each of you - Dwight/Diane Menke

dwright - January 14, 2023 at 09:32 AM

SO

“ Patti and all, I'm sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. God was so gracious to allow your parents to spend a long life together. I am so glad they will experience eternity together now. God bless you all ! Susan (Hogan)and Dennis O'Brien

Susan O'Brien - January 13, 2023 at 10:48 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Dinkel.



January 13, 2023 at 07:15 PM

CT

“ I have lost one of my dear friends of over 40 years. Oh what great times we had. Football games, trips to Cincinnati, dance lessons at vine wood and dancing at Moose Lodge almost every weekend. So many laughs and good times with her and Bill. Will miss u so much my friend but I will always have our wonderful memories.

Carol Trimble - January 13, 2023 at 06:43 PM

DH

“ The one thing I will always remember about Mary is that she was everyone's mom! I was so privileged to have know her for over 40 years and every time I saw her, she always asked how I was and often, I got a big hug. Mary taught me how to be a loving Catholic mother. Thank you, Mary. We will miss you.
Donna Bullock Horn

Donna Horn - January 13, 2023 at 05:29 PM