



## Celesta Ann Griess, 86

November 22, 1939 - May 19, 2026

Sutton, NE, resident Celesta Ann Griess, 86, passed away Tuesday, May 19, 2026, at Bryan Medical Center West Campus in Lincoln, NE.

Funeral services will be conducted at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 23, 2026, at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sutton, NE, with Rev. Tim Stacy officiating. Interment will follow at the Sutton Cemetery. Visitation will be Friday, from 2:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., with the family present from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m., at Sutton Memorial Chapel in Sutton, NE.

Memorial contributions may be directed to the family to be designated later.

Celesta Ann was born on November 22, 1939, in Wahoo, NE, to Constance Iona (Hillyer) and Homer Dau Maynard. While Celesta was in elementary school, her family moved to Davenport. Celesta graduated from Davenport High School in 1958 and fondly remembered special trips after school to get a bottle of pop. After graduation, her family moved to Geneva, where Celesta worked for Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph as a telephone operator.

Celesta met Ervin M. Griess shortly after he returned home from service in Korea. On August 24, 1960, a day she always considered one of the happiest of her life, they were united in marriage in Geneva, NE. Together, they built a life first in Sutton and later on the family farm, where they raised their four

children: Carol, Cheryl, Craig, and Christine.

Above all else, Celesta loved being a mother and grandmother. Her family was the center of her world, and she found her greatest joy in caring for and supporting those she loved. Whether it was attending school events, cheering from the sidelines at activities, helping with 4-H projects, or simply spending time together around the kitchen table, she made every child and grandchild feel deeply loved and important. She especially treasured learning to speak German alongside her children, creating memories that brought her great happiness.

As her family grew, so did her pride and love for each grandchild and great-grandchild. Celesta rarely missed an activity, game, concert, or milestone celebration. She was their biggest fan, always encouraging them, celebrating their accomplishments, and making them feel special. Her grandchildren will forever remember her warm hugs, home-cooked meals, baked treats, thoughtful gifts, and the way she made every gathering feel like home.

Celesta was a dedicated farm wife who enjoyed gardening, canning, and tending to her flowers. She also served many roles at the Sutton Community Home over the years, including the assisted living when it opened. She genuinely loved caring for others and treasured the many friendships she made throughout her career.

In their younger years, Ervin and Celesta could often be found dancing on Saturday nights, and later they enjoyed spending evenings together at the races. Celesta was active in Pork Producers and loved traveling and shopping, especially trips to Branson. Still, no destination or activity brought her more happiness than being surrounded by her family. She showed her love in countless quiet ways, always making sure everyone felt cared for and welcomed.

Celesta is survived by her husband, Ervin; children, Carol Schultz; Cheryl (Scott) Deskines of Grand Island, NE; and Craig (Dana) Griess of Sutton, NE; grandchildren, Kyle (Melissa) Hagemeister; Kayla (Chad) McWhirter; Nathan Griess; Brayden Griess; and Katelyn Griess; and great-grandchildren, Adelynn; Ava; and Amelia McWhirter and Logan Hagemeister.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Homer and Constance; her sister, Betty Wiesman; her daughter, Christine Griess; her son-in-law, Ron Hagemeister; and other beloved family members.

# Cemetery Details

## Sutton Cemetery

1202 N. Saunders Ave  
Sutton, NE 68979

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **22**. 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sutton Memorial Chapel  
804 S. Saunders, Ave.  
PO Box 612  
Sutton, NE 68979  
(402) 773-4100  
suttonmemorial@windstream.net  
<http://www.suttonmemorial.com/>

## Family Present At Visitation

MAY **22**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Sutton Memorial Chapel  
804 S. Saunders, Ave.  
PO Box 612  
Sutton, NE 68979  
(402) 773-4100  
suttonmemorial@windstream.net  
<http://www.suttonmemorial.com/>

## Funeral Service

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MAY **23**. 10:30 AM (CT)

Zion Lutheran Church  
204 North Main Street  
Sutton, NE 68979

# Tribute Wall

JJ

“ From one 4-H grandma to another's family, and one former SCH kitchen helper to another's family, and one Sutton Mustang/Fillies mom and grandma to another's family... I am so very sorry for your loss. My memories of Celest are many, our paths crossed often, and she always greeted me with a smile. She understood the value of hard work, knew the blessing of family, and carried a cross of suffering loss like a beautiful, faithful woman. God bless you all in your time of sorrow. Cherish your memories and give them a home in your hearts. Jean Jasnoch

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**Jeanette R Jasnoch** - May 28 at 11:27 AM

CF

“ I will always cherish the many hours spent at Pork Producers functions with our moms. Celesta and my mom would set-up a Pork Producers booth in the Imperial Mall, Hastings, Ne and Christine, my sisters and I would get to go shopping all day while our moms attended the booth. We had many more fun shopping trips together and will always cherish those memories of Celest.

*Hold her memories close to your heart, you are in our thoughts and prayers today and in the days to come.*

*The Friesens, Jason & Crystal*

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**crystal friesen** - May 23 at 01:59 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Floral Tributes



Sutton Memorial Chapel and McLaughlin Funeral Chapel - May 23 at 01:29 PM



“ 4 files added to the album Floral Tributes



Sutton Memorial Chapel and McLaughlin Funeral Chapel - May 23 at 08:45 AM



“ 22 files added to the album Floral Tributes



Sutton Memorial Chapel and McLaughlin Funeral Chapel - May 22 at 01:26 PM



“ *Love's Tapestry was purchased for the family of Celesta Ann Griess, 86.*



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May 21 at 05:25 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Celesta Ann Griess, 86.*



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May 21 at 04:28 PM



“ *Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of Celesta Ann Griess, 86*



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**Virginia Johnson** - May 21 at 01:39 PM



“ *Larry Joyce Klein lit a candle in memory of Celesta Ann Griess, 86*



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**Larry Joyce Klein** - May 21 at 12:38 PM

MS

“ Sending our special condolences to Craig, Dana, and family.

Mary and Marland Sedersten - May 21 at 11:55 AM

ST

“ I went to school with Celesta at Davenport Nebr. Since I was an only child she was like a sister to me. We talked about everything from boys to what we wanted to be when we grew up. I lived out of town and sometimes my parents would come to town to pick me up from school. On those occasions we would walk downtown together. We would walk down an alley that was behind .some of the stores so nobody would here what we said. Many secret desires and wishes were left in that alley. Bus rides to and from sporting events were always a fun time with her. Thank you Celesta for listening to me. I want to extend my love and sympathy to Celestas familly. She was a loving and accepting person and a wonderful friend. Sharon Kay

Sharon K. Topil - May 20 at 10:29 PM

SB

“ Sherrie Bartell lit a candle in memory of Celesta Ann Griess, 86



Sherrie Bartell - May 20 at 03:29 PM