



Catherine R. "Cathy" Schutz

March 15, 1951 - August 13, 2025

Catherine "Cathy" Rae (Kortum) Schutz

March 15, 1951 – August 13, 2025

Cathy Schutz, 74, of Wakefield, Rhode Island, passed away peacefully in her sleep on August 13, 2025, at Apple Rehab Facility in Westerly, after a long battle with cancer. Memorial service will be held on Friday August 22, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. at Solt-Wagner Funeral Home in Central City, with interment in Chapman Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the family for future designation. Condolences can be sent to the family at www.soltwagnerfuneral.com.

Cathy was born March 15, 1951, at Litzenberg Hospital in Central City, Nebraska, to Jim and Margaret (Collingwood) Kortum. She grew up on the family farm north of Hordville and graduated from Hordville High School. Over the years, she lived in Hordville, St. Libory, Central City, and Plainview, before moving to Rhode Island in 2019 to be with her daughter Becky. She also spent time living in Hawaii and traveled extensively throughout the United States, even as far as Guam—experiences she cherished and often spoke of with joy.

On February 13, 1972, Cathy married the late Bill Schutz. Together they shared many years before parting ways in 1989. From this union, Cathy was blessed with four children: bonus daughter Cheri Fernandez of Desert Hot Springs, CA; son Bill (Becky) Schutz of St. Paul, NE; daughter Becky (Chris) Bender of South Kingstown, RI; and daughter Maggie Johnston of Yankton,

SD. Cathy also welcomed many of her children's friends as her own, extending her love and "Mom" title far and wide.

Cathy was a hard worker throughout her life, with roles that included helping on the farm, working as a CNA, EMT, dispatcher, and lab technician. But her greatest joy was in the simple, meaningful things: cooking meals for her family, crocheting gifts made with love, and spending time outdoors. She was a devoted Husker football fan and even had a brief moment on the big screen as a bartender in the movie Nebraska. Above all, her happiest role was being "Grandma Cathy" to her grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and the many friends' children who adored her.

Those left to cherish her memory include her children, Cheri Fernandez, Bill (Becky) Schutz, Becky (Chris) Bender, and Maggie Johnston; her sister Carolyn (Bob) Driewer; sister-in-law Julie Schank; close friend and former sister-in-law Betty Swanson; 11 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren, with two more on the way; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jim and Margaret (Collingwood) Kortum; brothers Russ and Robert Kortum; infant brother James Kortum; granddaughters Sandra Ochoa and Madison Johnston; and great-niece and nephew, Logan and Elizabeth Klute.

Cathy will be remembered for her laughter, her kindness, and the way she made everyone feel like family. Whether cheering on the Huskers, cooking a meal big enough to feed a crowd, crocheting a blanket to keep someone warm, or sitting outside swapping stories, she gave freely of her love and time. Her spirit lives on in the countless lives she touched.

Cemetery Details

Chapman Cemetery

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **22**. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Solt-Wagner Funeral Home
1507 17th St.
Central City, NE 68826
(308) 946-3303
soltwagnerfuneral@gmail.com
<https://www.wagnerfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall

FT

“ From the families of DJD Trucking purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Catherine R. "Cathy" Schutz.



From the families of DJD Trucking - August 22, 2025 at 01:45 PM

FT

“ From the families of DJD Trucking planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Catherine R. "Cathy" Schutz.

From the families of DJD Trucking - August 22, 2025 at 01:45 PM

OC

“ Cathy and I shared some great times in the early 70's. We hung out together, those were wild and crazy times. She was always ready for an adventure. She loved life with a passion. I was so sorry to hear she had passed. May you feel her love for you all surrounding you today as you remember her life.

Opal M Christensen - August 22, 2025 at 09:45 AM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Catherine R. "Cathy" Schutz.



August 22, 2025 at 05:29 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Catherine R. "Cathy" Schutz.

August 22, 2025 at 05:29 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Catherine R. "Cathy" Schutz.



August 19, 2025 at 11:01 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Catherine R. "Cathy" Schutz.



August 18, 2025 at 08:08 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Catherine R. "Cathy" Schutz.

August 18, 2025 at 08:08 PM