



## Norma Jean Russell

March 14, 1956 - December 27, 2024

Norma Jean Russell, 68, passed away peacefully at her home in Kansas City, Kansas, on Friday, December 27, 2024. Born on March 14, 1956, in Beatrice, Nebraska, to Lester and Ruby Russell, she was a devoted daughter, sister, aunt, and friend who will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Norma was preceded in death by her parents, Lester and Ruby Russell, and her sister, Maxine Rivera. She is survived by her four nieces and one nephew: Michelle Rivera, Ruth Kelley and husband Edward Kelley, Karmel Perron and husband Joseph Perron, Jahnel McClain and husband Patrick McClain, and her nephew David Rivera and wife Ashley Rivera. Norma is also survived by three great-nephews and one great-niece: Jaden Kelley, Devan Kelley and wife Yareli Kelley, Josiah Perron, and Chloe Salaices and husband Ethan Salaices.

Norma grew up on the Russell family farm in Summerfield, Kansas, alongside her parents and sister. A lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church in Summerfield, Norma carried her faith with her throughout her life. Her favorite scripture, Philippians 4:13 — “For all things I have the strength through the one who gives me power” — was a guiding light for her, and she kept it close to her heart always.

A passionate advocate for education and hard work, Norma earned her

degree from Kansas University and devoted much of her professional life to the KU Medical Center, where she worked until her retirement. She was deeply committed to her career, where she touched many lives with her dedication, professionalism, and kindness.

Norma's legacy will live on through her family, who remember her as a loving, strong, and resilient woman. Her impact on those around her, both in her family and in her professional life, is immeasurable. She will be remembered not only for her work ethic but for her deep faith, her caring spirit, and her unwavering support of those she loved.

Memorial Services will be held at the Summerfield Community Center Saturday February 1, 2025 at 11:00 a.m (211 Main Street, Summerfield, KS 66541). She will rest at Mission Creek Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Kansas University Medical Center Foundation in honor of Norma's memory.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Service

FEB 1. 11:00 AM (CT)

Summerfield Community Center  
211 Main St  
Summerfield, KS 66541

# Tribute Wall

JM

“ I am deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Norma. My heart goes out to the family during this time of sorrow. I will always cherish the memories we shared. I met Norma in 1978 at KU during our last year before entering KUMC Medical Technology School. We lived in the dormitory and studied together, and Norma baked banana bread for our study time. We were on the student bowl team, and we won the state competition. We traveled to Little Rock Arkansas for the Regional championship but lost by one question in the second round. We traveled to Maine several times together to visit our friend Jackie (Leblond) Royles and her family. We traveled to England, Scotland and Ireland together in 1983. Norma was one of the smartest Laboratory Scientists that I know! Norma had a gift to really listen, and she was there to laugh and cry with me through the good times and sad times. May God's peace and love be with the family. Jan (Jantzen) Meitl.

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**Jan Meitl** - February 02, 2025 at 10:36 PM

JR

“ jacqueline L Royles lit a candle in memory of Norma Russell



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**jacqueline L Royles** - February 02, 2025 at 11:02 AM

JR

“ To Norma's family and friends, I offer my deepest condolences.  
I met Norma at KUMC dormitory in April 1979.

She was completing her Medical Technologist program and I arrived to begin my internship in Respiratory Therapy. Her fellow classmate and great friend Jan (Jantzen) Meitl lived a few doors away. I arrived and was assigned to room with Jan.

Norma and Jan graduated and moved on to their separate apartments and employment. I completed my program and returned to accept a position at KUMC and lived in the apartment complex across from Norma's.

Jan and I remained close to her. They both took several trips to Maine where I live.

In April 1986, both Jan and Norma hosted my family at the pre-wedding party for Tom and I.

In October 1992, they were the 'nannys' to my 2 month old son while my family travelled to Michigan for my brother's wedding. Other trips followed...including vacationing at Jan's family ranch in Bucklin, KS.

Great friends stick together.

Please keep in touch, if you choose, when things settle down after the memorial service.

I will miss Norma and will hold her in my heart. Prayers to the family.

with love,

Jackie Royles

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**jacqueline L Royles** - February 01, 2025 at 01:12 PM

LC

“ Larry and Sharon Cameron purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Norma Jean Russell.



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**Larry and Sharon Cameron** - January 30, 2025 at 12:51 PM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Norma Jean Russell.



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January 30, 2025 at 12:46 PM

DK

“ Norma was so diligent when it came to school projects. I do t remember how old we were but I think it was during a late grade school year. Norma boiled a whole chicken, deboned, and when the bones were nice and dry, she glued the entire chicken skeleton back together. This just amazed me! She was always very focused regarding academics and went above and beyond. Fly high dear childhood friend❤️

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**Dixie Miller Kimes** - January 08, 2025 at 11:01 AM

KM

“ I grew up with Norma , and Sunday school and church, at Mission Creek Presbyterian church! Norma was the kindest and smartest in all groups. And I send condolences to her nieces , nephew, and know her faith is the real help at this time .rest in peace Norma.  
Karen Drake McWilliams

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**karen mcwilliams** - January 08, 2025 at 08:19 AM