

In Loving Memory  
***E. Joanne Brokaw***

**Date of Birth**  
February 15, 1934

**Date of Death**  
February 13, 2025

**REMEMBRANCE**

You can shed tears that she is gone  
Or you can smile because she has lived.

You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back,  
or you can open your eyes and see all she has left.

Your heart can be empty because you can't see her  
or you can be full of the love you shared.

You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday,  
or you could be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.

You can remember her and only that she's gone,  
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.

You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back,  
or you can do what she'd want:

Smile, open your eyes, love, and go on.

Author unknown

**Mass of Christian Burial**

11:00 A.M. Wednesday, February 26, 2025  
**St. Helena's Catholic Church**  
Ellendale, North Dakota

**Celebrant:** Father Patrick Parks  
**Musician:** John Beckius  
**Song Leaders:** The Fries Family

**Congregational Singing**

“Morning Has Broken”  
“Here I Am, Lord”  
“One Bread One Body”  
“Song of Farwell”  
“On Eagles Wings”

**Casket Bearers**

Dylan Brokaw	Pete Kronberg
Ryan Brokaw	Brent Kindelspire
Christopher Baer	Brett Samson

**Burial**

Ellendale City Cemetery  
Ellendale, North Dakota

**Arrangements by**

Hoven Funeral Chapel  
Ellendale, North Dakota



**Joanne Brokaw**, 90, passed away at her home on Thursday, February 13, 2025. Hospice of Red River Valley, along with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, cared for and provided her comfort during the last months of her life.

Joanne was born February 15, 1934 in McPherson County, SD to Emily (Hoffman) and Harold Ladd. She graduated from Forbes Public School and attended summer school for teacher certification at Normal Industrial School in Ellendale. She taught country school for one year before marrying Jim Brokaw on September 6, 1952. They farmed and ranched together throughout their married life, raising cattle and sheep.

Being an only child, Joanne desired to have a large family, and she did; she raised nine children and nurtured any others who dropped in, stayed and/or worked on the farm. She cooked, canned, sewed, gardened, and worked outside wherever needed. She instilled feminism in her children and grandchildren who saw her ride horse, drive tractor and truck on the ranch and support women's causes at church, in political campaigns and in discussions while watching the news. She was always involved in politics—both locally and nationally. She made a compromise with Jim when they married: she would change religion but not politics. Therefore, she became Roman Catholic and Jim became a Democrat; she lived by the social justice issues important to both organizations.

After sending all of her children off into the world, she became a CNA and worked for over 20 years at the Ashley Medical Center skilled-nursing facility.

She is survived by Greg Brokaw, Cheryl Brokaw, Kevin & Jackie Brokaw, Kay & Keith Kronberg, Lois Baer, Mary Jo & Norm Fries, Carol & Doug Kindelspire, Lynn Brokaw & Tom Samson, and Lloyd Brokaw. She is also survived by 23 grandchildren, 44 great grandchildren, 2 great great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. As the matriarch, she was loved and respected and will be missed by all.

Preceding her in death were her parents Harold and Emily, husband Jim, son Kim, 2 grandsons, 2 great grandchildren and her special friend Joe Dethlefsen.

Please send memorials to  
Hospice of Red River Valley:  
Attn: Philanthropy  
3800 56<sup>th</sup> Ave. S. ~ Fargo, ND 58104  
1-800-237-4629

## *In Loving Memory*



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*1934 - 2025*