



## Rosemary Jane Hennessy

January 29, 1931 - April 17, 2026

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Rosemary Jane Hennessy, 95, passed away peacefully on April 17, 2026.

Rosemary was born January 29, 1931, to Velma (Lawyer) and Jesse Newman in Chariton, Iowa. Her early years included a few moves—from Lacona to Chariton, then Rockwell City, and finally Indianola, where she graduated from high school in 1949. After completing Comptometer School in Des Moines, she began working for Northwestern Bell Telephone Company and later as a service representative in Indianola.

While attending Simpson College, Rosemary met the love of her life, Bill Hennessy. They were married on June 14, 1952, beginning a partnership that would span decades, countless ball games, and a whole lot of laughter. They started out in Percival, Iowa, where Bill taught and coached, before settling in Roland in 1955. There, they raised their three daughters—Sue, Kathy, and Carole—and built a life centered around family, community, and school events. Rosemary was a familiar face in the stands, rarely missing a game during Bill's 50-year coaching career—rain, shine, or Iowa wind.

After her daughters were grown, Rosemary spent 20 years working at the Viking Motor Inn in Story City, where she formed lasting friendships with coworkers and guests alike. She also made sure Bill—and anyone lucky enough to stop by—benefited from her access to lefse and kringla, especially around the holidays (and not just at the holidays, if we're being honest).

Rosemary was an active member of Salem Lutheran Church in Roland, where she shared her time and talents, often in the kitchen preparing and serving meals for church events. She had a knack for making things—whether it was sewing clothes for her girls, crafting a suit for Bill, refinishing furniture, or bringing an old baby grand piano back to life. She loved her bridge clubs, treasured trips to garage sales in Kansas City with her cousin, and was known as a wonderful cook who made sure no one ever left her house hungry.

Rosemary liked to say her three favorite things were faith, friends, and food—though those who knew her best might tell you “family” occasionally got bumped for food, depending on what was coming out of the oven.

More than anything, Rosemary valued the people around her. She took pride in the lives her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren built and loved keeping up with all of them.

She is lovingly remembered by her daughters Sue (Harold) Lande and Kathy (Denny) Jerome; Scott (Carole) Anderson, her sister Sandra Newell; and her grandchildren: Justin (Niki) Aarsvold, Jill (Steve) Brady, Jeff (Lacy) Jerome, Jacki (Josh) Ray, Erik Anderson, Erin Anderson, and Noelle (Judd) McCormick; along with many great-grandchildren who brought her so much joy are Fletcher, Sullivan, Gibson, Miller, Crosby, Aarsvold, Paxton, Foster, Brady, Jaden, Avery, Kane, Jerome, Ariana, Adisyn Ray, Griffon, Walker, Ella McCormick and Erik Jr., Mac, Beck, Banks

Anderson.

She was preceded in death by her husband Bill Hennessy; daughter Carole; her parents, Jesse and Velma Newman; her in-laws, William and Alice Hennessy; her brother-in-law Ken Newell; and great-grandchildren Greeley and Zeb Jerome.

## Cemetery

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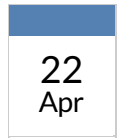


### ROLAND CEMETERY

59168 130th St.,  
Roland, IA 50236

## Events

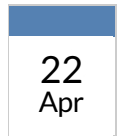
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### CELEBRATION OF LIFE

11:00 AM - 11:40 AM

Salem Lutheran  
Church 102 S. Main  
Street, Roland, IA  
50236



### VISITATION

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Salem Lutheran  
Church 102 S. Main  
Street, Roland, IA  
50236

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# Tribute Wall

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S

## Simpson College Alumni Office

On behalf of Simpson College, we extend our sincere condolences to Rosemary's family and friends. We are grateful to be part of her story and honored to remember her with you.

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T

## Tammy Dickinson-Ferrell

One of the sweetest, kindest, and most authentic people I have known. As one of our "neighborhood moms," we knew the Hennessy house was a safe place. Much love to the family. The loss of Rosemary will leave a huge hole.

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G

## Gary Thompson

To the Hennessy family, may your faith provide you with peace and comfort during this difficult time. God Bless You! My sincere sympathy Gary Thompson

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## Sandy, Cindy, Traci, Todd, & Ute, Eric, Laura & Tim

May you find peace and comfort in your memories.



### "Red Designer's Choice"

was purchased for the family of Rosemary Jane Hennessy

[Tribute Store](#)

*Show your support with flowers*

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## Sandy Eggland Hansen

Memories go back to days in high school softball and basketball activities. Rosemary brought lots of smiles, cheers, treats and conversations. Even following H.S. she always remembered the Eggland girls and stopped for chats when at Roland events. Rosemary was a delightful individual!!! A prayer and blessing to Rosemary's family.

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## Tom and Becki Thompson, Mark and Ruth Randleman

Our warmest condolences,



### "Emerald Garden Basket"

was purchased for the family of Rosemary Jane Hennessy

[Tribute Store](#)

*Show your support with flowers*

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**M**

## Mary Perry

As one of Myrtle Thompson's grandchildren, I always appreciated Rosemary, for getting Grandma's mail every day, and bringing it to her. If I was there, she would let me read it to Grandma. If no one was there, Rosemary sat and read it to Grandma. Years later I had the chance to thank Rosemary, when I was volunteering at Mary Greeley. Such a beautiful woman, inside and out.

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**J**

## Jurine Borton Moore

To the family of Rosemary Hennessy 95[D 4/17/26]. My condolences to each of you at this difficult time of closure. I enjoyed talking to her on the phone and we exchanged our annual Christmas Letters, so I've heard about each of you. Her husband, Bill, stated coaching at Roland when I was a Sr at Milford Twp so there were many things to reminisce about. I'm sure each of you had that opportunity too. Gods Peace be with you. Jurine Borton Moore, Milford Twp Class of '56



"Material\_candle\_purple\_thumbnail"  
was lit in memory of Rosemary Jane Hennessy

 [Light a candle](#)

*Show your support by giving a symbol of remembrance*

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**A**

## A Memorial Tree was planted for Rosemary Jane Hennessy

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Soderstrum Funeral Home - Roland

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