



## Carol Jean Ruetten

October 1, 1935 - January 31, 2014

Carol Jean Ruetten, age 78 of Spring Green, passed away peacefully at her home on Friday, January 31, 2014. Carol was born on October 1, 1935 to Harland and Mildred (Johnson) Forseth in Arena, WI. She grew up in Hyde, WI. She was proud to be a niece to Aunt Annie and Aunt Lena, owners of the Hyde Store. At age ten she tended the store, later sharing stories of its heyday. Carol graduated from Arena High School in 1953 as salutatorian and Madison Business College in 1955. On April 14, 1956 she married Fred Ruetten. They raised six sons on a beef, then dairy farm in Big Hollow, northwest of Spring Green. A gardener and preserver, she hosted wonderful home cooked meals. She worked at St. Mary's in Madison, Gruber Cheese in Plain and Arthurs in Spring Green. In their later years, Carol and Fred moved into Spring Green, to a newly built home. People frequently complimented her beautifully landscaped yard. Carol was a daily newspaper reader and crossword puzzler. She enjoyed documenting her ancestry, for which her family and friends are deeply grateful. She also tended to the gravesites of her ancestors. She passed on her Norwegian heritage by making lefse and Fred's German heritage by making sauerbraten.

Her loving family and dear friends will miss her smile, sense of humor, and laugh, while sharing a beer and catching up. Survivors include son Jim (Teri Nachreiner) of Spring Green, Rick (Marie) of Roxbury, Dan (Connie Stevens) of Spring Green, Scott (Edie Brandt) of DePere, Jerry of Spring Green, Chris

(Stephanie) of Watertown; and 10 grandchildren Jennifer, Katrina, Grace, Alexis, Tess, Kylie, Olivia, Dena, Hunter and Jake. She is also survived by siblings John (Anne) Forseth, Dave (Gail) Forseth, Anita (Ron) Jabs, brothers and sisters in-law Chuck and Bev Ruetten, Fred and Evelyn Peck, Madlyn Frederick, Dorothy McCluskey and Elaine Kurt.

Carol was preceded in death by her husband Fred, her parents Harland and Mildred, mother and father-in-law Alma and Joe Ruetten, Patti Forseth, Ronald and Donna Forseth, Joe McCluskey, Paul Frederick, Francis Kurt, Joe and Shirley Ruetten and Gerald Ruetten.

A Mass in Memory of Carol will take place at St. John's Catholic Church on Saturday, February 8, 2014 at 11am, with visitation at 10am. A burial in the church cemetery will take place in the spring. Online condolences are available at [www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com](http://www.clarymemorialfuneralhome.com). Clary Memorial Funeral Home is assisting family with the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

HU

“ I wish we had known you and Fred, I think we might be related, my guess is on Fred's side, I have a few relatives in Wisconsin, Kenosha n Richland Center is where my dad Peter was born, I hope you are getting to know him, he was a great father, be blessed in your new eternallife, love HeatherIL

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**Heather Ruetten Brodian - Loda, IL - unknown - March 23, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

KC

“ Hi!  
You continue to be in my thoughts and prayers as you move forward to your 'new normal.' Remembering your Mom/Grandmother helps keep her in your lives and hopefully fills the void of her loss... It helps to try to remember silly, funny things that make you laugh, and know that she's right there, laughing right along with you!  
Love,  
Karen

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**Karen Forseth Womack - Columbus, WI - cousin - February 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

JF

“ Jeff and I are so very sorry that we were not able to attend your mom's services yesterday. We just wanted to let you all know how very sorry we were to hear that your mom had past. I always enjoyed her visit's when she came into Electri-tec to see her brother John. Your mom was a very special lady and I want you all to know that she will be missed by many.

*Jeff & Connie McVay*

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**Jeff & Connie McVay - Arena, WI - Friends of the family - February 10, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

RF

“ Dear Ruetten's,  
I am so saddened for your loss. Your Mom was always so nice to me. I felt like a son to Carol (always asked me to call her Carol) and Fred, and a brother to all you boys especially during hunting season. And since you let me hunt birds, I have been to the farm at all times of the year. It is such a beautiful place in the world. I remember most sharing the joy of your family waking for the hunt at the Ponderosa. Your Mom would always awake first and begin frying the good-luck venison breakfast prior to setting out. I remember sitting at the kitchen table at 4:00am or so, having coffee and and waiting for everyone to ready themselves. I cherish these memories, and I know you boys hold yours dear. Share them all the next few days, months, years and know we're thinking of them with you. Love, Tim.

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**Richard Tim Paeschke - Randolph, NJ - Family Friend** - February 07, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LC

“ Whenever we came to Wisconsin, we always were glad that Aunt Mildred included a visit to the Ruetten farm in her plans for us. Carol was always so warm and friendly and made us feel like we were at home. We are grateful for the great memories over all the years and we are thinking of all of you with love.

*Larry & Pennie Fledderman*

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**Larry & Pennie Fledderman - Titusville, PA - Cousins** - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

LF

“ Remember all the ways Carol touched your heart and made you smile. This makes for a very warm and happy feeling.

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**Lori Aegerter - Cross Plains, WI - friend** - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ . She was a wonderful lady and will missed greatly. I will miss seeing her at the Barneveld Lutheran Church Luetfisk dinners.

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**Dean Forseth - Verona, WI - 2nd cousin** - February 06, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ I will always remember Carol as very special friend who loved to read and tell jokes. She had us laughing a lot. We looked forward to her homemade Pasty and apple pie with the best crust around. We had so much fun when we went to Branson and saw the shows. Will miss her a d wish I could be at her celebration of life. RIP Carol.

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**Kathy Maxwell Clark - Spring Green, WI - Friend** - February 05, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ It is often said that that one can tell a lot about a parent by the character of the sons or daughters. That couldn't be more true in this case. I grew up in Plain and started going to the Brick School in Spring Green at the 3rd grade. So, I guess you could say that I have known Chris my entire life. We ate lunch together, hung out and played sports together. Almost 20 years later we still compete against each other in fantasy football so you could say we've stay in touch. I met Jerry (SP) by accident about a decade or so ago up in Chetek while on vacation and from the minute I met him I knew he was a Ruetten. Which brings me to my point. Two sons, of the same parents and both class act citizens who are just good people. Upstanding citizens who care about the world around them and are happy to lend a hand or a bit of good advice. I believe that I only met Fred and Carol in passing so I only got to know them through their kids which was enough to tell me a lot about them. I'm sure Carol, like Fred will be greatly missed by her friends and family. While I didn't really know her, I am thankful for the friend she provided for me. A friend that I hope to have a long, long time. Godspeed.

Robert J. Schanke  
Plain, WI/Manchester, IA

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Robert J. Schanke - Manchester, IA - Friend of Chris - February 04, 2014 at 12:00 AM

KF

“ Carol and Fred raised a great family of boys

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Kurt Baryenbruch - Bolingbrook, IL - Friend - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ I was a newcomer to the area in 1980. Carol, Fred and their sons invited me into their home for weekend hunts and made me feel like part of the family. Carol and I shared the hobby of tracing our family trees and I admired the work she had put into the project. I will miss you Carol and I hope your next life will be just as rewarding as this one was. Love, Russ & Deanna Fritsch

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**Russell Fritsch - Iron River, WI - Friend of family - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

KG

“ Rest in peace grandma. I miss and love you!

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**Kylie Ruetten - Spring green, WI - Granddaughter - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

AG

“ Rest in peace, grandma.

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**Alexis Ruetten - Spring green , WI - Granddaughter - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

CS

“ Way too soon. You will be missed.

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**Chris Ruetten - Watertown, WI - son - February 03, 2014 at 12:00 AM**

JS

“ Rest in peace mom!

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**Jerry Ruetten - Spring Green, WI - Son - February 02, 2014 at 12:00 AM**