



Pauline Ann O'Keefe

August 12, 1930 - December 23, 2024

Pauline Ann O'Keefe, 94, died December 23, 2024, in Mitchell, NE. Pauline was born and raised in Wisconsin where she graduated from Spring Valley High School and attended Minneapolis Business School. Upon marriage to James H. O'Keefe, the couple moved to Omaha, Nebraska and settled permanently in Huntley, Wyoming in 1951.

A celebration of Life Mass will be held at 10:00 AM on December 30, 2024 at Saint Rose Catholic Church in Torrington. The Mass will be preceded by a viewing at Colyer Funeral Home from 8:30AM - 9:30AM. Burial will take place at the O'Keefe family plot in Valley View Cemetery immediately following Mass.

Survived by her daughter, Barbara O'Keefe Straining (Joseph) Paradise Valley, AZ; grandson, James J. O'Keefe, Portland, OR; brother, Joe Peterson (Barbara) Yoder, WY; and sister, Barbara Peterson Kronholm, Wilson, WI.

Pauline was pre-deceased by husband, James H. O'Keefe and son, James G. O'Keefe (Phyllis), Elk Horn, IA.

Pauline was appointed US Postmaster in 1959 and served as Huntley Postmaster for thirty-one years. Additionally, she was a Trainer Postmaster and served nine years as the Secretary-Treasurer of the Wyoming Chapter of

the National Postmasters of the United States. Upon retirement, she volunteered at Regional West Medical Center for twenty-five years.

She was most proud of helping build the O'Keefe family home which was built primarily by the O'Keefe's and completed in 1962. The Huntley Post Office was then officially relocated from the Union Pacific Depot to the O'Keefe home where it remains to this day.

Cemetery Details

Valley View Cemetery

30th Avenue
Torrington, WY 82240

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 30. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (MT)

Colyer Funeral Home
PO Box 20 / 2935 Main
Torrington, WY 82240
(307) 532-2320
colyerfuneralhome@gmail.com

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (MT)

St Rose Catholic Church
605 E 22nd Ave
Torrington, WY 82240-2527
(307) 532-5556

Tribute Wall

BM

“ To the family of Pauline.... I am so sorry to hear of the loss of my favorite lady Pauline. I worked in the kitchen and dining area at the care center she was at. I recently lost my father and had to quit my job for his care prior to his death so I hadn't heard of her passing. I went to the care center tonight to visit her specifically... I was so sad to hear she wasn't there and that I had missed her service. Your mom and I had a genuine connection—she indeed was a beautiful empath. Pauline would grab my hand and I'd cradle her shoulders... she felt the pain I was going through with my father's newly diagnosed illness—he only lasted two months after we found out he had cancer. Your mom was always so happy to see me and would tell me she prayed for me and loved me. I just want you all to know how much I thought of her... she was a sweetheart and o will never forget her kindness! God bless you all!

Brooke McManaman - January 07, 2025 at 09:11 PM

BS

Thank you, Brooke, for the lovely tribute to Mom. It was very special to us as you captured her essence perfectly. Even at the age of 94 and suffering serious medical issues, she cared deeply about others and was always a willing listener. Your gracious words speak to those who knew Mom and experienced her kindness. I am so sorry for the loss of your father. It is never easy to say goodbye to our loved ones. I'm grateful that Mom eased your pain even a little. God bless you, too.
Barbara

Barbara Straining - January 09, 2025 at 11:36 PM

CW

“ Barbie and family, I’m so sorry about your loss. Pauline was always so kind and thoughtful. I too, have many fond memories picking up our mail at the Huntley Post office. I was always greeted with a smile and a nice visit. At Christmas Pauline would share her wonderful red velvet cake with our family which was delicious! I also remember how faithful both Jim and Pauline were in attending numerous school activities at Huntley showing their support. I’m so sorry I was unable to attend the Pauline’s service. God bless you and your family.

Cindy (Coxbill) Wambolt - January 01, 2025 at 06:34 PM

BS

Cindy, thank you so much for your kind words about Mom. She loved the Huntley community and truly enjoyed visiting with everyone who came into the Post Office.

Barbara O’Keefe Straining - January 03, 2025 at 04:40 PM

DD

“ Nan, as I knew her for most of our friendship, was a rare gem. I met her son Jim when we were going through Navy flight school in Pensacola in 1974. He and I just hit it off and became lifelong friends. He was that brother from a different mother. Any friend of Jim’s was a friend of hers. I was even P.O. Box 5 in her Huntley Post Office. She knew our family as Josie and I had described them to her and was a dear, caring friend. Even though Barb had tried to set her up on the computer, writing a letter was her preferred method of communicating. The few times I wrote her, she quickly responded. Any time I was on the road and within 500 miles, I felt obligated to drop in and enjoyed every visit. Our last time was this past August. Even though she had declined from the previous year, she rallied and made us feel as welcomed as ever. She was a dear soul and I’ll miss her. Blessings to her family.

Dennis Dumbauld - December 30, 2024 at 11:07 AM

BS

Dennis, thank you so much for your kind words and support. I know Mom cherished your letters and especially your and Josie's visits. My love, 🐹

Barbara O'Keefe Straining - December 31, 2024 at 08:29 PM

JO

“NeeNee”, You were always a bright spot in everyone's lives and the best grandmother anyone could have. I'm so sorry we did not get to say goodbye. I just found out last night about your passing. I'm not able to make your service but I hope you and Dad have found peace in a better place.
Love Forever,
Jimmy"/"Jim2”



James O'Keefe - December 30, 2024 at 10:40 AM

HJ

“ I remember Pauline so vividly. When visiting my Grammie Lois Otis, she and I would go into Huntley daily to get the mail in the '70's and '80's. Pauline was always so friendly and cheerful. She was a treasure.
Holly Hellbaum Johnston

H Johnston - December 30, 2024 at 10:23 AM

BS

Thank you for your kind words, Holly. I remember you and your Grammie with fondness. Barbara

Barbara O'Keefe Straining - December 31, 2024 at 08:10 PM

JZ

“ Janet Z. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pauline Ann O'Keefe.

Janet Z. - December 30, 2024 at 09:30 AM

JO

“ NeeNee, I just found out. I wish more than anything I could have said goodbye to you. If I had only been informed I would have been able to make the service. I hope you and dad have found each other and are catching up in a better place. I'm sure we will all see each other again someday. All my love forever, Jimmy/Jim 2



James O'Keefe - December 29, 2024 at 11:06 PM

BS

I am sorry you didn't receive my messages, Jimmy.

Barbara O'Keefe Straining - December 31, 2024 at 08:07 PM

JO

When precisely were these sent?

James O'Keefe - January 04, 2025 at 03:18 AM

SG

Thoughts and prayers to family and friends.

Steve D Garrett - January 11, 2025 at 07:55 PM

PG

“ Barbara I'm so sorry to hear about your mom. I have so many wonderful memories of her. Going to the post office was always a joy because of you mom's sense of humor and her kindness. Patty Garrett Gingles

Patricia June Gingles - December 28, 2024 at 10:08 AM

BS

Thank you for sharing your wonderful memories of Mom.

Barbara O'Keefe Straining - December 31, 2024 at 08:13 PM

CV

“ Christopher & Connor Vecchiarelli purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Pauline Ann O'Keefe.



Christopher & Connor Vecchiarelli - December 27, 2024 at 11:55 AM

CV

“ Christopher & Connor Vecchiarelli planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Pauline Ann O'Keefe.

Christopher & Connor Vecchiarelli - December 27, 2024 at 11:55 AM

KD

“ Kathy D. purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Pauline Ann O'Keefe.



Kathy D. - December 27, 2024 at 10:23 AM

NC

“ *Pauline was a beloved wife and mother. I have the privilege of knowing her, husband Jim, and son Jimmy. She was a rabid US Navy supporter of the Academy and sports. Loved being a Navy Mom. She always had time for a visit in her “pink” kitchen. Her son Jimmy told me of her cleaning routine at home, awakened by the vacuum before the Post Office opened. She loved her family dearly. I will miss her however joyful she is now reunited with her two Jims. With deepest condolences,*
Nancy Black Campbell

Nancy Campbell - December 26, 2024 at 02:07 PM

BS

Thank you for your beautiful tribute, Nancy. I know how much she cherished your visits. Barb

Barbara O’Keefe Straining - December 31, 2024 at 08:29 PM

DW

“ *Dwane A Wills lit a candle in memory of Pauline O’Keefe*



Dwane A Wills - December 26, 2024 at 11:55 AM

BS

Thank you for your kindness in lighting a candle for Mom.

Barbara O’Keefe Straining - December 31, 2024 at 08:30 PM