



## Doris Jean Erkenbrack

January 29, 1932 - June 12, 2026

Doris Jean Erkenbrack, née Brooks, passed away peacefully in her sleep at the age of 94 on June 18th in Brunswick, Georgia. She was born on January 29, 1932, in Bridgeport, Nebraska, to Lloyd Shelton Brooks and Bessie Iva Brooks (née Barner).

Jean, as most knew her, was preceded in death by her parents; her brothers, Gordon Brooks, Howard Brooks, and Dean Brooks; her sisters, Merna and June; her son, Harry R. "Dutch" Erkenbrack Jr. and her daughter, Cynthia Ann Collins.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Harry "Dutch" R. Erkenbrack Sr.; her children, Carol Cassedy (Lin), Michael Smith (Tina), Charles Smith (Peggy), Kathleen Thomson (Daniel), and Christine Miller (Kevin). She also leaves behind many beloved grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends who will cherish her memory.

Having been born to a family of ranchers in small town Nebraska, Jean had a true hard-working, pioneering spirit, yet she balanced that with a robust sense of humor; whimsy with grit, a youthful, radiant countenance and sense of style (she was well known for her beautiful hat and shoe collections) with inner strength and resilience. Undergirding all of this was a deep devotion to her Catholic faith.

At a young age she left Nebraska aboard a train headed for the East Coast and never looked back except to see how far she had gone. She lived for a time in Washington D.C., Maryland, Virginia, South Carolina, California, Minnesota, Montana and finally Georgia. She provided the heart to a home that warmly welcomed children, grandchildren, extended family and friends who will remember it fondly as a place of warmth and love, where you never left hungry and if you needed a place to rest it was assured and provided. She loved chicken and rooster motifs, often referring to her children and grands as her brood and she the mother hen.

There is so much more to say about her life that we could not possibly encapsulate it all here in a few short paragraphs. She will be deeply missed, yet her legacy lives on through the generations of family she helped nurture and the countless memories she leaves behind.

# Upcoming Events

## Visitation

JUL 1. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Church of the Epiphany (Coon Rapids)  
11001 Hanson Boulevard Northwest  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 1. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (CT)

Church of the Epiphany (Coon Rapids)  
11001 Hanson Boulevard Northwest  
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

# Tribute Wall

MM

“ For around 50 years Jean was my sister-in-law, but more of a sister to me. We had each others backs. We shared special moments and confidences. I will miss her joy, faith, and our chats, more than anyone can know.

She was a great mother, wife, and sister, and I am blessed that I had her in my life. I'm lighting a yellow candle for remembrance.



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**Marta Moran-Bishop** - Yesterday at 06:23 PM

MC

*My deepest condolences to you and your family.*

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**Marsha Cook** - Yesterday at 08:53 PM

MA

*Thank you Marsha.*

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**Marta** - 1 hour ago