

RJ "Jean" Bokelman

February 17, 1958 - March 29,
2026



RJ "Jean" Bokelman, age 68, of Manhattan, passed away March 29, 2026, at Homestead Assisted Living in Manhattan.

Jean was born on February 17, 1958, in Manhattan, the daughter of Myron and Darlene (Samuelson) Larson. She grew up in the Olsburg area and attended local schools. She graduated from Blue Valley High School with the class of 1976.

RJ attended college at Kansas State University and then started her career there. She first worked in Facilities Planning on campus. When Bramlage Coliseum opened in 1988, she took a position there. During her lengthy years of service at Bramlage, RJ wore many hats. The last position that she attained was Director of Event Services. She loved her job and her co-workers at Bramlage. The Bram Fam and KSU were her joy and she took immense pleasure in being part of all the events throughout her extensive career. She later became a K-State Athletics employee where she worked until November of 2023.

Jean loved animals of all kinds, especially her cats. She was a member of the Olsburg Lutheran Church.

On April 17, 1982, in the Olsburg Lutheran Church, she was united in marriage to Terry Bokelman. He preceded her in death on November 13, 2006.

RJ is survived by her sister Mylene Larson (Dallas Davis) of Olsburg; her stepchildren, Leslie Smith, Michelle Welliver, and Jonathan Bokelman of Manhattan; her grandchildren, Kelsey Welliver and Zane Smith of Manhattan; and numerous friends and co-workers whom she loved dearly.

As a dear friend and former member of the Bramlage team put it, RJ was "a truly exceptional person who has left an indelible mark on the lives of many. [RJ's] unwavering dedication to spreading joy and positivity inspired a multitude of individuals."

Private interment is planned.

A Celebration of Life for RJ will take place from 3pm-5pm on Friday, April 17, 2026, in the Shamrock Zone at Bramlage Coliseum. To enter, please go through the NW doors at Bramlage. Those attending are encouraged to wear their K-State purple!

The family wishes to thank the staff of Homestead and St. Croix Hospice for their support and compassionate care of RJ. Memorial contributions in her memory are suggested to the Olsburg Lutheran Church. Contributions may be sent in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Avenue, Manhattan, Kansas 66502.

Online condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com