



## Susan A. Thayer

March 23, 1959 - December 21, 2021

Susan A. Thayer, age 62, of Lakeside, Iowa, died December 21, 2021, at her home in Lakeside.

Celebration of Life services will be on Saturday, January 8, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at Summit Church in Alta, Iowa. Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in STORM LAKE is in charge of arrangements.

An untraditional lady deserves an unconventional tribute! Occasionally, Mom would read through the local obituaries, shake her head, and say, "People don't need to know these mundane details about my past. Make it a testimony about how much I loved Jesus and you guys! And some of the fun we had along the way."

Susan Annette Thayer's life was one gigantic adventure!

Born on March 23, 1959, Sue was a long-term resident of Storm Lake, Iowa. In her younger days, Sue enjoyed the lake life, with fond memories of sailing, boating, and skiing. She loved camping, the outdoors, and was an avid bicyclist, participating in RAGBRAI on several occasions. Sue happily settled into her lake home, where she lived for nearly 35 years. It was here that she housed over 130 foster children from all walks of life, some staying as little as a weekend or as long as three years. She had two daughters in this home, Kim and Kristin, and adopted three more children: Kevin, Desiree, and Zoe. Sue was always involved in church with a deep passion for mission work. On

one occasion, she drove her 15-passenger van full of kids to central Mexico to help build a church. On another, she drove the same van to downtown New York to help with an inner-city bible school for youth. Recently, she visited Haiti where she had a blast “holding all of the babies” – her greatest love. Sue’s other hobbies included gardening, hosting beautiful parties with her friends, late-night bonfires, riding all of the fastest rides at amusement parks, and attending every single event for each of her kids. Sue’s heart was always focused on loving Jesus, loving her family, and loving babies.

After a “stint” (as she called it) at Planned Parenthood as center manager in Storm Lake for 17 years, Sue had a change of heart after the clinic she was employed at announced they were going to quietly begin doing telemed abortions remotely, with no medical staff on site. She was fired after voicing her concerns – and later declared, “If you’re going to be fired, Planned Parenthood is a great place to be fired from.” Sue was vocal about the new telemed abortions happening behind closed doors, and eventually contacted 40 Days For Life. They had a prayer campaign starting soon and encouraged Sue to sign up. After a little nudging from God, she enrolled as a leader. Sue was the only former Planned Parenthood employee to lead a campaign outside of her own former facility and subsequently have the clinic close permanently, only a few weeks later.

As Sue’s story became more public, there were increased opportunities for her to share at pro-life events, schools, and churches. Her love for Jesus was palpable in every speech she gave and event she attended. The speaking opportunities simply added to the adventure. Often, instead of flying, she would opt to drive and take as many of her children who wanted to go, turning it into a vacation and having fun on cross-country road trips. Whether it was a weekend trip to coastal Maine, a cruise to Alaska, camping on the ocean beach in Texas, or getting rained on at the Grand Canyon, Sue instilled a passion for travel in every one of her kids.

In 2018, Sue was hired by 40 Days For Life as Director of Outreach, a job that ignited a fire in her heart. She was given a platform to share her story

internationally and she did so tirelessly. Sue supported local campaign leaders, lobbied for pro-life public policy, and devoted her last 3 years to defending the rights of the unborn and their mothers while sharing the atrocities of abortion. She dedicated her life to serving God with grace and determination from beginning to end. In Sue's words, "This isn't goodbye, this is 'see you in a little bit' as long as you love the Lord."

While she will be deeply missed here, Sue's pro-life legacy will live on. Sue's passion, warmth, charity, and impact on the pro-life movement will not be forgotten. We have a lifetime of beautiful memories, laughter, reminders, milestones, and souvenirs under our belts to cherish of our mother. She was the best mom ever!

Sue's three beloved Yorkie "puppies" greeted her at Heaven's gates, Koko, Peanut, and Yoda. She is survived by her five children, Kimberly, Kristin, Kevin, Desiree, and Zoe Thayer.

"For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be." Psalm 139:13-16

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

Summit Evangelical Free Church  
1000 S. Main St.  
Alta, IA 51002

# Tribute Wall



“ *May you rest in Peace in the arms of the Lord and rise in Glory, dear Sue. Thank you for your efforts to protect life!* ”

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**Maria** - January 22, 2022 at 11:12 AM



“ *Maria lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer* ”



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**Maria** - January 22, 2022 at 11:10 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Susan A. Thayer.* ”



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January 13, 2022 at 11:52 AM

TM

“ 40 Days for Life in Fairview Heights, Illinois sends its deepest sympathies to Sue's beautiful children at the loss of your mother. A light has gone out in this world but a beacon shines above. Sue helped guide us through 8 campaigns. I'll never forget how excited I was to get my first phone call from her! In my mind she was a rock star. But she proved to be a constant friend, consoler, leader, cheer leader and prayer partner.

*May Our Lord Bless her children always with many graces as she blessed the world with her faith.*

*Theresa Miller-Boll*

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**Theresa Miller-Boll** - January 09, 2022 at 06:20 PM

LC

“ Sue had such a bright, positive, and reassuring presence. My sincere condolences to her family and friends who have lost this light in their lives.

*I will miss her.*

*Lee Crowley, 40 Days for Life Worcester, MA*

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**Lee Crowley** - January 08, 2022 at 01:43 PM



“ 40 Days for Life Bronx, NY  
What an absolute joy Sue Thayer was every time I answered my phone and she was the one calling. I consider her a female Barnabus. She encouraged, cheered and always had a word of blessing for me and for the campaign I lead in the Bronx, NY. When we met in person she was an expression of the smiling love of Jesus. Sue will definitely be missed and I am all the more enriched for having met her. Our prayers are with her precious family, 40 Days for Life National and all who cared and appreciated her so much. May those of us who remain on this side of glory be strengthened, to continue following Christ as faithfully as our dear beloved sister in Christ, did from the moment she surrendered her life to the lordship of Jesus Christ. - Pearl Corbin



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**Pearl Corbin** - January 08, 2022 at 12:03 PM



“ Dear Family, I met your wonderful, Jesus loving mom a at Walk to Emmaus. She was my table leader. She made a lasting impression on me. Such a fun living spirit. Cherish your memories. Sorry get time was short on earth. May the Lord give you peace and Grace as you go forward without your mama by your side.

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**Cindy Greene** - January 08, 2022 at 10:42 AM

DI

“ I was one of the 612 leaders this last Fall.. It was my first vigil in 5 years. Sue made me feel like a close personal friend. We talked and texted numerous times but I only met her once at the Summit in 2019. It was a tough vigil for m this year, like starting over. Loosing Sue is a deep loss. My prayers are with you all who are missing her. With Love through Christ He will carry you., Diane Stringer 40 Days Klamath Falls.

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**Diane** - January 07, 2022 at 06:34 PM

PM

“ The 40 Days for Life Worcester, MA Leadership Team extend our deepest condolences to Sue's family and friends.

*Pauline, Lee, Sandra, Julie, Gina*

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**Pauline Morris** - January 07, 2022 at 04:03 PM

PM

“ I've had the pleasure of talking with Sue prior to each 40 Days for Life campaign and knew she was a special woman. Sue was only a phone call away to assist us in any way. We also chatted about our families and exchanged emails.

*Pauline Morris*

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**Pauline Morris** - January 07, 2022 at 04:00 PM

TN

“ Before I started the Wichita campaign, Sue and I had been talking and exchanging emails. She told me she was going to be my #1 cheerleader and she had been praying for someone to start a 40 Days for Life in Wichita. We were right in the middle of covid 2020 and it wasn't sure that we would even be able to fly to Houston for the Symposium. Sue and I had both agreed that she would drive to me and then we would drive together to the Symposium if that were the case. Sue's last words to me included "I'll pray for you." I'm certain that Sue's prayers for my campaign and me and my team will much more powerful now! God bless you Sue. I miss you already. Eternal rest grant unto her O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon her, may she rest in peace. Amen

*Tori Nunn and my 40 Days for Life - Wichita family*

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**Tori Nunn** - January 06, 2022 at 10:05 AM



“ I had the pleasure of meeting Sue through my work with 40 Days for Life. Over the phone we developed a friendship that meant so much to me. Sue was always full of life and love and I will miss her deeply! May your family rest in the comfort of God's arms as you go through this very difficult time. Your mom was a great lady!



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**Linda Kile** - January 05, 2022 at 05:31 PM

DL

“ Sue loved throwing birthday parties, Christmas open house, gathering people around her. Always willing to jump in for evening boat rides, kayaking, end of day phone calls. Sue was a peace lover, loving mom, strong believer. Sue, you are missed by so many. When someone told you that you couldn't save the world, you replied, one child at a time. And off you went to do just that. You got your miracle!

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**Deboney Langner** - January 05, 2022 at 08:03 AM

SU

“ Sue was a tremendous support when navigating through leading a 40 Days campaign. She was a true inspiration to everyone in the movement. May her soul Rest In Peace. Continued prayers for her family and dear friends as they have suffered such a profound loss. 🙏😊 We will keep fighting for the babies!  
40 Days for Life in Virginia Beach, VA

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**susan** - January 04, 2022 at 02:22 PM

JM

“ Your Mom was a wonderful person. She loved supporting the pro-life movement. This was evident in the work she did here and elsewhere. May you kids cherish your moments you had with your Mom and be proud to be her children. May she RIP.

*Julie McKinney*

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**Julie McKinney** - January 03, 2022 at 12:56 PM





“ So honored to call Sue a dear friend. I learned so much from her Sue loved the Lord with all her heart and cherished her family. So blessed to work alongside her effort to save the lives of mothers and their unborn babies. May we all work as tirelessly as she did. Praying for you, her precious family as you grieve this great loss. God be with you all.

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**Jill Engelmann** - January 02, 2022 at 06:19 PM

CS

“ Colleen Swanson lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer



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**Colleen Swanson** - December 31, 2021 at 09:40 PM

AW

“ I am heartbroken to hear about Sue, and I know she will be missed by the countless people whose lives she touched in a positive way. She was a very thoughtful, compassionate, and generous person, and I deeply valued our friendship. Over the years I enjoyed becoming acquainted with her growing family as she, Kim, and Kristin welcomed numerous foster children into their home. I know the three children she adopted felt fortunate to become a permanent part of a very special and loving family who enjoyed being together.

Sue will never be forgotten by all of the people who were blessed to know her. My thoughts and sympathy go to her wonderful family and all of us who wish that she could have been with us longer.  
Andriette Wickstrom

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**Andriette Wickstrom** - December 29, 2021 at 05:33 PM

SM

“ *Sheila Mills lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer*



Sheila Mills - December 29, 2021 at 08:34 AM

JB

“ *For her dear family we express sincere sympathy in their physical loss of mom. The Lord thru Susan has plans already realized for their journey without her. Susan left such imprints in the lives of her children and in her earthly mission saving moms and their babies. There are others the Lord has prepared to step in. May God give you all peace , comfort and hope in each new day. Praying for each of you, her family!! June and Ron Bryan*

june Bryan - December 28, 2021 at 02:11 PM

MF

“ *Matt And Jean Fassler lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer*



Matt and Jean Fassler - December 27, 2021 at 04:39 PM

MF

“ *Matt And Jean Fassler lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer*



Matt and Jean Fassler - December 27, 2021 at 03:49 PM

DL

“ So Sorry For Sue’s Family & Many Friends  
But So Thankful For Sue’s Heaven Gain . Sue  
Was Truly The Hands & Feet Of Jesus Saving  
The Babies All Over & Pray That Othrs Will  
Step Up & Do What She Believed In ! Many  
Prayers , Much ❤️ & Angel Hugs To Her Family . 🙏❤️



Dave & Patti Lange - December 27, 2021 at 12:25 PM

LC

Sue was a co-leader when I met her, on Facebook, and we were friends to the end of her earthy life. I was always able to share every triumph of the Lord- every baby saved, our own "quitter" and she always gave such encouragement and praised God with me. I know she is in Heaven, now holding babies as a foster mom. Little Gabriel went home tiniest the day before Sue- and his parents are assured that she is holding him and loving him!

Laurie Coykendall - January 06, 2022 at 01:42 AM

HS

“ So Sorry to her about Sue , she was a Great protector of life , now  
the Lord is taking care of her in heaven , with deepest sympathies ,  
Howard and Kathy Schultze

Howard Schultze - December 25, 2021 at 02:00 PM

JL

“ Janet Leonard lit a candle in memory of  
Susan A. Thayer



Janet Leonard - December 24, 2021 at 08:19 AM

JL

“ Janet Leonard lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer



Janet Leonard - December 24, 2021 at 08:18 AM

CS

“ Colleen Swanson lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer



Colleen Swanson - December 23, 2021 at 07:41 PM

CS

“ Colleen Swanson lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer



Colleen Swanson - December 23, 2021 at 07:40 PM

NH

“ Nicki Harrington lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer



Nicki Harrington - December 23, 2021 at 10:14 AM

DW

“ I've only known Sue for a few short years, but what a blessing it was to know her! I am confident that Sue will continue to fight for life from her new home in heaven. To her children, who I never had the opportunity to meet, please know of my prayers for your mom and for you! My condolences to you all! May your mom now rest in the arms of Jesus. Deacon Russ Woodard - Edinburg, Indiana

Deacon Russ Woodard - December 23, 2021 at 08:45 AM

TC

“ Oh, Kids...you are so young to say goodbye to your Mom...for that, I am sorry...reach out to others when you need help.... Their are people to help you in whatever you need.... God Bless Sue

Tim and Pegi Cavanaugh - December 22, 2021 at 11:49 PM

GF

“ A friend from childhood - her dedication to the Pro-Life efforts undoubtedly saved many children as well as brought many mothers to Christ. She was an unbelievable force in this effort as well as a loving mother and friend. Rest well in Christ's arms my friend. Until we all meet again....Glenda Hase Francis

Glenda Francis - December 22, 2021 at 10:52 PM

TC

“ Tim And Pegi Cavanaugh lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer



Tim and Pegi Cavanaugh - December 22, 2021 at 10:15 PM

PG

“ MY HEART IS BROKEN, LOOSING MY DEAR FRIEND, SUE. I FEEL SHE WAS READY TO GO BEFORE JESUS. SHE HAS A WONDERFUL FAMILY WHOM SHE TAUGHT TO TRUST IN GOD. WE WORKED WITH THE PRO-LIFE FOR 20 + YEARS AND SHE WAS A GREAT INSPIRATION TO ME. I LIT A CANDLE IN HER MEMORY, AND WILL PRAY MANY PRAYERS FOR HER & HER FAMILY. MAY SHE RIP.



JOY, PEACE & LOVE, LARY & PATTY GUNVILLE

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**PATTY GUNVILLE** - December 22, 2021 at 08:42 PM

RT

“ Roxanne Tjaden lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer



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**Roxanne Tjaden** - December 22, 2021 at 06:36 PM



“ Tim Ried lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer



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**Tim Ried** - December 22, 2021 at 01:11 PM



“ *A inspiration to all who knew her. She worked tirelessly and fearlessly for the pro-life cause. Not only saving human life but always doing so with love pointing people to Jesus Christ. At times like this we can only trust in God's sovereignty.* ”

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**Tim Ried** - December 22, 2021 at 01:10 PM

SB

“ *Scott Bodholdt lit a candle in memory of Susan A. Thayer* ”



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**Scott Bodholdt** - December 22, 2021 at 12:23 PM

JW

“ *I will Forever miss you my Dear Friend.* ”



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**Jen Wemark** - December 22, 2021 at 12:14 PM