



Nelma Ione Theis

November 6, 1927 - January 13, 2019

Nelma Ione Stuehrenberg Theis, beloved Mother, Wife and Friend, passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 13, 2019. She was 91 years old. Nelma was born on November 6, 1927, on Buffalo Peak in rural Nebraska and was the only daughter of Henry and Golda Meentz Stuehrenberg. She had one brother, Stanley Stuehrenberg, a long time Hastings, Nebraska, insurance representative.

Nelma and her brother were only a year apart and entered school together in a "one room" schoolhouse which still stands in rural Nebraska. As his sidekick she learned to ride horses as fast (faster she would say) and shoot guns as accurately as any boy.

Nelma graduated from Blue Hill High School, Blue Hill, Nebraska, in 1945, and attended Hastings College. It was at a Bohemian wedding dance in Lawrence, Nebraska that she met the love of her life, James Francis Theis. They married at St. Cecilia Catholic Church in Hastings, on May 27, 1948. Nelma and Jim enjoyed 70 years of marriage and commitment until his passing 6 weeks ago. They are now united again.

To accommodate her husband's career in the Life Insurance business, Nelma moved from Nebraska, to Indiana, to Kansas, to Colorado, to Texas, to Nebraska, and finally back to Kansas. Along the way, she gave life, love and

direction to five children. They were the primary focus of her life, along with the home she kept for them through their multiple moves. Nelma was skilled at home decorating and enjoyed the fine objects she acquired to furnish her homes over the years. She was an active volunteer, the first PTO president at Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic School, where all five of her children attended, a Cub Scout, Boy Scout and Girl Scout leader, a member of the PEO Chapter CS, Topeka, Kansas and a duplicate bridge player.

Nelma and Jim traveled world-wide during conventions associated with Jim's employment and continued to do so after Jim's retirement thus expanding their world even further and allowing Nelma to accumulate objects to provide more character to her home. She made close friends throughout her life's travels and kept them to the end.

Nelma was preceded in death by her husband Jim and her only sibling, Stanley. She is survived by all of her children, James F. Theis, Jr. (Diana), Paola, Kansas, Thomas L. Theis (Joan), Topeka, Kansas, Kathryn Ann McPherson, Olathe, Kansas, Jill Marie Firth (James), St. Louis, Missouri, and Mary Jane Santeiro (Ernest), Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren, all of whom she was very proud. They all miss her dearly.

Memorial service will be 11 a.m. Friday, January 25, 2019, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, with visitation two hours prior. Inurnment will follow in Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic School, sent in care of the funeral home.

Cemetery Details

Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd
Topeka, KS 66606

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 25. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home
2801 SW Urish Road
Topeka, KS 66614
(785) 272-7888
info@kevinbrennanfamily.com

Memorial Service

JAN 25. 11:00 AM (CT)

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Tribute Wall



“ Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Nelma lone Theis



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - January 24, 2019 at 10:21 AM



“ Nelma lone Theis

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

JM

“ One classy lady! That’s how I remember my Aunt Nelma. Always fashionably dressed and with perfectly coiffed hair, she took pride in her appearance, her home and her wonderful family. She and Uncle Jim were always warm and welcoming, gracious and fun, and left me feeling glad for each interaction. I’m grateful we were able to reconnect at the luncheon following Uncle Jim’s services. We chatted about their 70-year marriage. When I asked about the key to its success, she said that if one of them felt strongly about an issue, the other didn’t push their viewpoint - and vice versa - which she said boiled down to KINDNESS. Wow! Simple. Profound wisdom. A little gift wrapped up and tied with ribbon.

My heartfelt sympathy to Jim, Tom, Kathy, Jill and Mary Jane, and your families.

Jan Theis McGee



Jan McGee - January 24, 2019 at 02:23 AM

RB

“ Sorry to hear of Nelma's passing. We are good friends of her son Jim. Thoughts and prayers go out to her family.
Dave and Roxanne Biller

Roxanne Billwr - January 19, 2019 at 09:57 PM

ES

“ I have many fond memories of Nelma over the last 30 years. From the time Nelma and Jim first welcomed me into their home, in Hastings, NE., to celebrate Thanksgiving, to the recent talks we shared after Jim's passing. Each memory has the common theme, of Nelma's kindness to me, her sharpe sense of people and events and her love of family. Whether playing cards, chatting with family while sharing a cocktail, or enjoying an evening meal together, it was clear to me that Nelma cherished her family and wanted to be with us. She always asked about the grandkids and wanted current updates on our lives. She wanted to encourage us and support us. She was very proud of her family. She will be greatly missed. But, I am happy for her, in that she and Jim are together again. You may rest in peace Nelma. Your family , Mary Jane and I, Mark and Nicole will always remember you.

Ernie Santeiro

Ernie Santeiro - January 18, 2019 at 05:24 PM

MR

“ Our sincere sympathy to Nelma's family and friends.

Marilyn Rivera and the Meals on Wheels staff and volunteers

Marilyn Rivera - January 17, 2019 at 05:23 PM

CP

“ I met Nelma through Home Instead Senior Care. I loved talking with her and she shared what she was reading at the time. I admired her daily reading of newspapers no matter how she felt. Most of all, I loved her sharing stories from her amazing life. What a woman of talent, love, and faith! God bless the family at this time. You have a wonderful heritage.

Claire Phillips - January 17, 2019 at 12:03 PM



“ *Jill, you and your family are in my prayers. Your parents were two of my favorite diners. Your mother was so sweet & gracious, and so proud of all her children and grandchildren. While there is comfort in knowing she & your dad are reunited, I cannot imagine now hard it is to lose them so close together. You are all in my prayers.*

Sharon McGuire - January 17, 2019 at 03:02 AM

BD

What a beautiful woman inside and out. She was very special to me. I am so glad we shared the same faith. I will truly miss her. God bless her family always

Bonnie Donald - January 19, 2019 at 04:13 PM