



Marlene Florence Nelsen

March 7, 1940 - February 12, 2024

Marlene Nelsen, 83, of Milford passed away on Monday, February 12, 2024, at the Kavanaugh House in Des Moines, IA.

A mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 17, 2024, at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Milford. A Rosary and Chaplet of Devine Mercy reading will begin at 8:30 at the church followed by a visitation up until the start of the service at the church. Burial will be held in the Calvary Cemetery in Milford. Arrangements are under the direction of the Robinson Funeral Home in Spirit Lake. Online condolences may be left at www.spiritleakefuneralhome.com

Marlene Florence Nelsen was born on March 7, 1940, in Carroll, IA, to Frank and Mary Catherine (Schoeppner) Bellinghausen. She was united in marriage to Edwin Eugene Nelsen on April 4, 1961, in Maple River, IA. Together, they raised five incredible children, Gene, Cathy, Dave, Rod and Tim. Marlene filled many roles over the years. Whether it was helping Edwin run the family insurance business, running her own in-home day care or volunteering at St. Joseph Catholic Church, she always served with love and consideration for others.

Throughout her life, Marlene also dedicated a substantial amount of time in service to the community. One way that she found to use her time and talent to help others was through sewing sleeping bags for homeless and disadvantaged children. Marlene made over 10,000 sleeping bags and distributed them with the help of nonprofits and faith-based organizations

throughout Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. When she felt her time sewing was complete, she donated the materials and equipment to a nearby church to continue the mission of providing warmth to others.

In her free time, she enjoyed gardening; there was not a vegetable or flower that she could not grow! She also enjoyed puzzles, making rosaries, being an active member of her church and cooking for others.

Despite her many accomplishments, her most treasured work was spent raising her five children, becoming a grandmother and then, great-grandmother. Marlene took great pride in watching her children enter parenthood and build their own families. She was a loving, steady and supportive presence in the lives of her children, their spouses and all of her grandchildren.

She is survived by her children Gene (Amy) Nelsen and their children, Ben, Alex, Nick, Alexandra, Peyton, and Carsyn, and their grandchildren Cash, Saylor, and Beckett; Cathy (Rick) Homard and their children, Rebecca, Jason, Aaron, and their grandchildren Joshua, Daniel, Michael, Theodore, Madelyn; Dave (Yatnia) Nelsen and their children, Austin, Sean, Ayden; Rod (Cozy) Nelsen and their children, Kennedy, Jazlyn, Noah; Tim (Jessica) Nelsen and their children, Rowan, Eddie, Liam; sisters, brother, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, parents-in-law, brother-in-law, sisters-in-law, and several sisters and brothers.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

225th Street
Milford, IA 51351

Previous Events

Rosary

FEB 17. 8:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1301 Okoboji Ave.
Milford, IA 51351

Visitation

FEB 17. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1301 Okoboji Ave.
Milford, IA 51351

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 17. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
1301 Okoboji Ave.
Milford, IA 51351

Tribute Wall

MK

“*Marlene was one of the best Catholics I have ever met. I was so lucky to be able to work with her as she was making her 10,000 Ugly Quilt sleeping bags for the homeless. She hoped that the homeless would be there when she was ready to meet St. Peter and help her get into Heaven. I could see that what would really happen is that there would be a parting of all these people she helped and that Jesus would take her hands that worked so hard and lead her to a special place for those special people that gave so much of themselves during their life. Rest in Peace Marlene! I was so inspired by you!*
Please accept my condolences to Marlene’s beloved family! Marcia Kirke”

Marcia Kirke - April 17, 2024 at 08:43 PM

TL

“*So sorry for your loss.*”

Trey Lynch - February 28, 2024 at 07:19 PM

BL

“*Family of Marlene,
Marlene will be missed so much. We had a joke between us about cookies. So every Christmas, we took her our family tradition (Belgium cookies), and she shared her little round ginger snap cookies with us. Hugs to the family.*
Bob and Linda Louwagie”



Bob and Linda Louwagie - February 17, 2024 at 12:02 PM

JD

“ *Marlene’s love of her husband, family and the Lord was a great example of what was important in her life. Continued prayers to her family during this difficult time.*

Jill Droegmiller - February 17, 2024 at 02:25 AM

AB

“ *My heart goes out to all the family. Wish I was there with you but am in spirit. My sister Marlene is so missed already, I miss my weekly phone calls with her. She was a treat when the girls would come to see me in Florida We loved teasing her, and her hair was always hot, What good times we had. I enjoyed her and her willingness to help me scout out the Freedom rocks on my visits to Iowa.Love always Alvina*

Alvina Beyer - February 16, 2024 at 07:08 PM

TS

“ *She was a great lady and daycare provider! She raised wonderful children and will be missed by many!*



Tammy Sarvie - February 16, 2024 at 06:51 PM

SG

“ *Sandi Guthrie lit a candle in memory of Marlene Florence Nelsen*



sandi guthrie - February 16, 2024 at 05:52 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Marlene Florence Nelsen.*



February 16, 2024 at 01:13 PM



“ *Marlene’s Family,
Marlene was such a fine and sweet lady. So glad I knew her.
Rest In Peace ..you have earned your heavenly wings*



Mary L Vermeer - February 16, 2024 at 09:17 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marlene Florence Nelsen.*



February 15, 2024 at 04:20 PM



“ *Jeff Curnes planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marlene Florence Nelsen.*

Jeff Curnes - February 15, 2024 at 04:20 PM

CL

“ Thoughts and prayers are with Marlene’s family. She will also be remembered as a great person.



Connie Lange - February 15, 2024 at 02:07 PM

VB

“ Vince And Linda Bronson lit a candle in memory of Marlene Florence Nelsen



Vince and Linda Bronson - February 14, 2024 at 10:50 PM

SS

“ Springbrook State Park Staff purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Marlene Florence Nelsen.



Springbrook State Park Staff - February 14, 2024 at 06:10 PM

JM

“ If you needed daycare for your children you were so fortunate to have Marlene for your daycare provider. I'm proud, happy and so thankful to have had Marlene (and Ed) to provide daycare for mine. Marlene will be remembered by many and for many things.

Jeff Merryman - February 14, 2024 at 01:44 PM

JG

She was the best! We are also thankful for Marlene's loveing care when our kids were at her home.

Joann Gano - February 15, 2024 at 07:12 AM

LB

“ *LeAnn Budrow lit a candle in memory of Marlene Florence Nelsen*



LeAnn Budrow - February 14, 2024 at 01:29 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Marlene Florence Nelsen.*



February 14, 2024 at 10:02 AM

MM

“ *Jesus gave us the Corporal Works of Mercy as a guide for living our lives in a manner pleasing to God . . . Marlene's life was grounded in these ways of serving others in Jesus' Name - leaving us with an example to follow. . . and a challenge to do so! Rest in well-deserved Peace, Dear Friend of Many!*



Molly Mulqueen - February 14, 2024 at 09:36 AM

AD

“ Anne Donovan purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Marlene Florence Nelsen.



Anne Donovan - February 14, 2024 at 06:55 AM

SR

“ Marlene was a vital volunteer at St. Joseph. We always had a fun time when we went to the soup kitchen. And many of us will always remember the ugly quilt issue at the store in Sioux City every time we drive by. She was always available to come to the church in a moments notice to staple bulletins or serve coffee and cookies at a funeral visitation. A sad time for us although she always told me she was ready to go. Heaven gained a great angel.

Susan and Dean Reiser - February 13, 2024 at 09:44 PM

JR

“ Jenn, Amy, Jen, Logan, and Ranney purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Marlene Florence Nelsen.



Jenn, Amy, Jen, Logan, and Ranney - February 13, 2024 at 05:32 PM

JR

“ Jenn, Amy, Jen, Logan, and Ranney planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marlene Florence Nelsen.

Jenn, Amy, Jen, Logan, and Ranney - February 13, 2024 at 05:32 PM

LE

“ *Marlene was a great friend and care giver to our son. When she decided to stop doing daycare our son was the only one she kept on. She was loved and will be missed. Jim, Leah and Dan Studer*

Leah - February 13, 2024 at 03:00 PM

DH

“ *Dale And Laura Hanna sent a virtual gift in memory of Marlene Florence Nelsen*



Dale and Laura Hanna - February 13, 2024 at 12:46 PM

CA

“ *Marlene was one of the first people we met when we moved here over 50 years ago. When our kids were young we had coffee almost every week. She loved her children fiercely and her devout faith carried her through the tough times. She will be missed by many RIP Bill and Cheryl*



Cheryl Aumer - February 13, 2024 at 11:53 AM

AH

“ *My kids still talk about staying with Marlene. She would have them work with her in the garden. They loved it. May she rest in peace.*

Annette Huse - February 13, 2024 at 08:33 AM

AH

“ *Annette Huse lit a candle in memory of Marlene Florence Nelsen* ”



Annette Huse - February 13, 2024 at 08:27 AM

JW

“ *Jerry, Kathy, & Michael Welter lit a candle in memory of Marlene Florence Nelsen* ”



Jerry, Kathy, & Michael Welter - February 12, 2024 at 10:00 PM

MD

“ *Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley sent a virtual gift in memory of Marlene Florence Nelsen* ”



Michele Dyhrkopp-Shortley - February 12, 2024 at 07:50 PM

KB

“ *Kris Berning lit a candle in memory of Marlene Florence Nelsen* ”



Kris Berning - February 12, 2024 at 07:33 PM

BD

“ *Bonnie Duhn lit a candle in memory of
Marlene Florence Nelsen*



Bonnie Duhn - February 12, 2024 at 07:30 PM

JB

“ *Jaime Berning lit a candle in memory of
Marlene Florence Nelsen*



Jaime Berning - February 12, 2024 at 06:46 PM