

Janice Nielsen, 69

Jan. 30, 1938 - Dec. 23, 2007

MOORHEAD — Janice E. Nielsen, 69, Moorhead, IA died Sunday, December 23, 2007 at Burgess Health Center, Onawa, IA, following a courageous battle with cancer.

Janice Ella Mae Nielsen was born January 30, 1938 at Rodman, IA, the daughter of Vernon Stewart and Maytie Irene (Doty) Whitehouse. She attended country school in Ringsted, IA and grade school in Armstrong, IA. She graduated from Gruver High School in 1955 and Buena Vista in 1957. After college, she taught several different grades and classes at Moorhead Public School.

Janice and Ivan Harold Nielsen were united in marriage August 14, 1960 at Gruver, IA. They made their home and raised their children in the Moorhead area. Janice loved Head Start where she was Director for 38 years beginning in 1969 at Logan and Moorhead. She received many awards while working for Head Start including the Wilbur F. Peters Award in 2000, Certificate of Excellence for dedicated service for children and families in 2002, and Friend of Young Children Award in 2007. She was a member of the State and National Head Start Directors Association, State Day Care Advisory Committee, American Legion Auxiliary where she served as president and secretary, West Central Sheltered Workshop, and the Moorhead Community Club. She enjoyed family, camping, cooking, baking, and collecting teapots. She was a member of the Moorhead Christian Church, where she was a Deaconess, Sunday School Superintendent and Teacher, and also enjoyed Women's Fellowship.

Janice was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Doug; and a brother, Robert. Survivors include her husband, Ivan of Moorhead, IA; a daughter, Shelly (John) Sturgill of Onawa, IA; two sons, Mark (Barb) Nielsen of Sioux City, IA; and Terry (Trisda) Nielsen of Harlan, IA; grandchildren, Curtis and Shelby Sturgill, and Dalton, Austin, Ellie, and Connor Nielsen; step grandchildren, Jessica Smith and Lindsay Mays; step great-grandchildren, Jayme, Jaycee, and Jaycob Smith, and Taylor Mays; two sisters, Bonnie Baker and Joann Prescott; and one brother, Jim Whitehouse.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 A.M. Thursday, December 27, 2007 at Moorhead Christian Church with Rev. Ron Keith officiating. Music selections were "Amazing Grace", "My Heart Will Go On", "You Will Never Walk Alone", "Remember Me", and "Go Rest High On That Mountain". Shelby and Curtis Sturgill were soloists and Mary Lou Kratz was organist. Burial was in Spring Valley Cemetery in Moorhead. Visitation was from 4:00 - 8:00 P.M. Wednesday with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. at Rush Family Care Service, Onawa, IA. Casket bearers were Steve Whitehouse, Brian Prescott, Max Strube and Jay, Todd and John Lindsey. Honorary bearers were Curtis and Shelby Sturgill; Dalton, Austin, Ellie and Connor Nielsen; and Past and Present Head Start employees.



**Rush Family
Care Service**
Onawa, IA