

## Stanley Paul Nielsen, 53

*July 7, 1946 - Jan. 28, 2000*

**HARLAN** - Stanley Paul Nielsen was born July 7, 1946, at Harlan, the youngest of five children of Ralph Karl and Frieda Evalena Smidt Nielsen. He attended Jackson #2 country school until sixth grade living with his family on a farm north of Jacksonville. Through consolidation he attended Harlan Junior High and the Harlan Community High School system. He graduated from Harlan High School in 1964. He entered Dana College, Blair, NE, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in philosophy in 1968.

He married Cheryl Paulsen of Minden, NE, June 2, 1968, and they made their home in Dubuque. In May of 1972, he received a Masters of Divinity degree from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque and was ordained at his home church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, July 16, 1972. He accepted a call to be pastor at Peace Lutheran Church in Albert, KS. In 1978, he resigned that pastorate to become director of Management and Booking for a Christian Music Ministry called DAMASCUS under the auspices of Outreach Ministry of Harlan. After a brief time as news director and announcer for KNOD-FM Radio in Harlan, he accepted a call to United Lutheran Church in Shelby, in 1982 and in 1988 began serving St. John's Lutheran Church of Persia. The Nielsen family moved to Harlan in February 1999 when Pastor Stan was forced, by illness, to give up his post as parish pastor. They adopted two children, Dory and Ivy. In recent years, Ivy's son, Trey, has been part of the Nielsen household. He was a member of the clergy of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. He served as Chaplain Member of the Jennie Edmundson Chaplaincy Corps in 1992 and 1993. He served as past Board member and Board chairman of the Salem Lutheran Homes in Elk Horn, served on the Weather Observer-Disaster Services, as the Regional Communication Consultant of the ELCA, Western Iowa Synod Assembly News Director and Audio Consultant, past member of SCADEC, past member and past president of the Shelby Kiwanis and member of the Harlan Kiwanis and as publicity chairman for Lutheran Brotherhood Branch #8104. He served as Little League coach and in later years as announcer at football and basketball games for Shelby and then AHST. He lent assistance to school Baccalaureate services and Western Iowa Arts Association productions at State Fairs. Due to his efforts, Shelby was designated as Purple Martin capitol of Iowa. He was active in the Cursillo Movement and served as announcer at Carsten's Farm Days. He was a member of the Board of the Commission for Historical Preservation in Shelby County and served as project supervisor of the Rock Island Stone Arch Trail at Shelby and had key responsibility in the re-opening of a grocery store in Shelby. He received the Iowa Associated Press Century Club and Enterprise Awards in 1981. He received the Shelby Commercial Organization Leadership Award in 1985, and the Red Cross 21-year volunteer pin in 1986. He was given the Governor's Volunteer Award in 1992, and received the Community Betterment Award from the Western Iowa Development Association. He received the Pheasants Forever Friend of the Year Award in 1999. He died Jan. 28, 2000, at age 53 years, six months and 21 days. He fought a courageous battle with brain cancer since its first indication Nov. 9, 1997.

His father, Ralph, precedes him in death. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl of Harlan; his mother, Frieda Nielsen of Elk Horn; a son, Dory of Harlan; a daughter, Ivy of Omaha, NE; two sisters, Jeanne (Connie) Sorensen of Millford and Lona (Fred) Louis of Northbrook, IL; two brothers, Don Nielsen (Marie) of Haughton, LA and David Nielsen (Sandy) of Wayzata, MN; granddaughters, Joey Nicole and Jordan Raquel of Atlantic; grandsons, Terrence of Avoca and Trey of Harlan; mother- and father-in-law, Sidney and Nina Paulsen of Minden, NE; sister-in-law, Dorothy (John) Groesser of Grimesland, NC; brother-in-law, Ron Paulsen (Joann) of Minden, NE; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A celebration of his life was held Feb. 2, 2000, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Harlan, with Pastor Jon Benson officiating. Inurnment will take place at a later date at the Minden Cemetery, Minden, NE. Knutson Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

