



## Rita L. Nelson

September 29, 1953 - April 28, 2020

Rita L. Nelson, age 66, passed away Tuesday, April 28, 2020, at home near Bear Valley. She was born on September 29, 1953, in Richland Center the daughter of Arnold Benford and Florence Juanita (Swenink) Liska.

As a child, Rita attended Wheat Hollow School from 1st -6th grades. She graduated from Ithaca High School then attended beauty culture school in Madison. Rita enjoyed growing up in Wheat Hollow on a small farm with many of her childhood friends close by. They enjoyed picking blackberries, playing in the creek, and chasing fire flies.

Rita married her high school sweetheart and prom date, David, on June 8th, 1974. Rita took a job at a beauty shop in Plain, along with helping her husband on the farm in Bear Valley. Together the couple raised four sons which was Rita's most important job. She was active in the Willow Valley Church, PTA, Ithaca Foundation, Ithaca Pride, Farm Safety 4 Just Kids Day Camp, and Farm Wives. She also decorated the Little Brown Church. She enjoyed gardening, arts and crafts, baking, and her collie dogs.

Rita never met a stranger. Everyone was always greeted with a big hello. She loved to visit with her close friends and those she had not seen in a while. She genuinely enjoyed spreading Love. Rita was known for her hugs. So much love and affection flowed from her embrace.

Rita enjoyed her job at Oakwood Fruit Farm where she dipped apples for 19 years until her health caused her to retire. She loved her orchard family. Rita battled diabetes and heart issues, but she never let that interfere with her love for her family. She treasured watching her boys grow up with her nieces and nephews and all of their activities. The addition of three daughters-in-law to the family was very special to her. She was so proud of each of them. For the last twelve years, Rita's heart was warmed by her grandchildren.

Survivors include her husband, David Nelson of Bear Valley; 3 children, Kyle (Kari) Nelson of Richland Center, WI, Tyler (Lindsay) Nelson of Onalaska, WI, Brady (Stephanie) Nelson of Arena; 3 grandchildren, Carter, Cayden, and Macey Nelson; 3 sisters and a brother, Shirley (Rodney) Gochenaur of Cazenovia, WI, Nita Liska of Richland Center, WI, Amy (Bill) Bindl of Richland Center, WI, Arnie (Deb) Liska of Lone Rock, WI; 3 sisters-in-law and a brother-in-law, Nancy (Tom) Clary of Bear Valley, WI, Margaret (Arthur) Simpson of

Richland Center, WI, Larry (Sherry) Nelson of Ithaca, Barbara (Burf) Mayfield of Bear Valley, WI; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her son, Ryan Nelson; parents, Arnold Sr. and Juanita Liska; father-in-law/mother-in-law, Norbert & Betty Nelson.

A celebration of Rita's life will be held on Sunday, May 2, 2021 from 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM at the Kaul Park in Bear Valley. Funeral services and burial were held for immediate family at the Brown Church Cemetery a year ago on May, 2, 2020.

# Events

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**MAY** **Celebration of Life** 12:30PM - 04:00PM

**2**

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Bear Valley Kaul Park

WI, US

# Comments

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“ I was so sorry to hear about Rita. My thoughts and prayers go out to your family.  
Linda Dobbs Prechter.

Linda Dobbs Prechter - May 01, 2021 at 08:55 AM

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“ Today and always may loving memories bring you peace, comfort and strength. With my deepest sympathy as I keep Rita and her loving family in my thoughts and heart.  
—Sherri McKittrick

Sherri McKittrick - April 28, 2021 at 07:53 AM

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“ Dave, my deepest sympathies to you and your family. My memories of Rita go back to high school, especially working together on the Purple Quill. Rita was one of the kindest and most positive people around. As an upperclassman, (two years my senior), she still had the patience and kindness to put up with irritating underclassmen like me. Always cheerful and encouraging! Her kindness toward others will always remain in my memory.

Pat Durst - May 25, 2020 at 09:08 PM

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“ Our sympathy goes out to all of her family.  
She was a beautiful spirited women, one that I was honored to call friend. Deb Niemeyer

debra niemeyer - May 10, 2020 at 05:46 PM

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“ I feel blessed to have had Mrs Nelson/Rita (and the Nelson family) in my life- especially when I was living in the Ithaca area. Rita was always supportive of me, welcoming when I visited and made me a special photo album regarding my achievements at IHS. For Prom she even styled my hair. Such a special loving person and I feel sad that she is no longer with us. I have a feeling that God has a special plan, such as an angel.....

Eileen Durkin Reillye - May 04, 2020 at 06:47 PM



“ Eileen Durkin Reilly

Eileen Durkin Reilly - May 04, 2020 at 06:49 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Eileen Durkin Reilly - May 04, 2020 at 06:33 PM

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“ Our hearts are heavy as we grieve the loss of our beloved sister in law. May we all find peace in knowing she is in the lords hands and is back with her son Ryan. God Bless, we will miss you Rita.



sherry nelson - May 02, 2020 at 07:21 AM

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“ I am so sorry to here of your loss of Rita. My thoughts and prayers to you, David and your family. She will surely be missed.

Laura Stoddard

Laura Stoddard - May 01, 2020 at 06:01 PM

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“ SENDING LOVE AND PRAYERS TO RITA'S FAMILY! MAY GOD GIVE YOU COMFORT. HEAVEN GAINED ANOTHER SPECIAL ANGEL OF LOVE. CHERISH THE MEMORIES.

JOHN & CONNIE TURGASEN - May 01, 2020 at 10:39 AM

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“ Rita always had a smile on her face whenever I saw her. She LOVED her family. She would talk about them with such love in her voice and heart. She will be missed.

Chris Storer - May 01, 2020 at 08:51 AM

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“ A short time ago  
in a small part of God's creation,  
he sent a light;  
a gleaming light  
to illuminate his love.  
The light shone ever brightly  
as time moved on.  
Touching every soul she encountered,  
she warmed with kindness,  
compassion  
and hope;  
even through times when darkness  
tried to overcome.  
Radiant rays  
reached,  
upward, outward;  
never to cease expanding.  
Then, after faithfully sharing  
the gifts he gave her,  
He called her home.  
Although aware that shadows would fall  
for a time in her absence,  
he knew they would concede  
to the lasting memories of her light.  
She shines still,  
lauded by angels  
and graced by His eternal smile.

P.A.T. Larson  
Dedicated to Rita 4/30/2020

Pat Larson - May 01, 2020 at 12:49 AM



“ May you all feel the peace and love that I know is there to help you through this ..Love you  
Rita..Always Debra Taylor

Debra Taylor - May 01, 2020 at 07:20 AM



“ My thoughts and prayers go out to the Nelson & Liska families during this  
heartbreaking time. I have so many memories of Rita & spending time with her  
extended family. She was such a sweetheart and always had a smile and a hug for  
you.  
Rest in peace sweet lady! You impacted so many and will be dearly missed!

Rhonda (Miklian) Hamilton - April 30, 2020 at 10:40 PM



“ Such a kind and loving lady she will be truly missed by all. Tim and LouAnn Wunnicke

LouAnn Wunnicke - April 30, 2020 at 09:44 PM

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“ My deepest sympathy to you and your family. Rita was a beautiful lady who always had a smile on her face and a good word to say, we will miss her

Karen Johnston - April 30, 2020 at 09:35 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rita L. Nelson.



April 30, 2020 at 09:32 PM

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“ Rita was a kind and caring person who always made others feel welcome. I always enjoyed visiting with her when our paths crossed. She was a special person. Our prayers go out to Dave and the family.

Mark and Barbara Kaul

Mark and Barbara Kaul - April 30, 2020 at 07:14 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rita L. Nelson.



April 30, 2020 at 07:14 PM

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“ I'm so sorry David for you and your Family. I was so happy to get to know her at Byron's Birthday Party. Roxane was so glad to get to visit with her and so was I. My sympathy is with you now and the days to come.

**Stella Moser** - April 30, 2020 at 07:12 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your great loss. May the God of all comfort - comfort you during these difficult days. Tom Rakow

**Tom Rakow** - April 30, 2020 at 08:22 PM

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“ Stella Moser lit a candle in memory of Rita L. Nelson



**Stella Moser** - April 30, 2020 at 07:05 PM

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“ I will always remember what a sweet kind person that was so welcoming to anyone she just met...Her joyful spirit will be missed but one who touched so many people & only made their days brighter. My deepest sympathy to all her family

**Joan Kepler** - April 30, 2020 at 06:38 PM

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“ So very sorry to learn of Rita's passing. I first met Rita while teaching at Ithaca. What a vibrant, sweet person. I know she will be missed by many. My condolences to the families.

**Terri McGraw** - April 30, 2020 at 05:05 PM

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“ Our deepest sympathy Dave, Kyle, Tyler, Brady & your families. Rita was a special lady. As has been told many times, she always made you feel special when you saw her, no matter if it was the day before, or a period of time between. HUGS TO YOU ALL

Jean & Rick Fruit

**Jean Barreau Fruit** - April 30, 2020 at 05:04 PM

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“ Our condolences to the entire Liska and Nelson family. May God bless you and comfort you at this difficult time. We know you have lost a treasure and believe heaven has another bright shining light. Congratulations on the wonderful job you and her many friends did raising (and supporting) Rita. May you be consoled by your memories of your time with her and the faith that you will be united with her in eternity. I'll never forget her kindness to me, a stranger in a new high school. She made me feel welcome and special. I now know she was the special one.

**John Schmitz (and Jean)** - April 30, 2020 at 04:50 PM

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all during this sad time. I'm so sorry for your loss.

**Colleen Draper Ringgenberg** - April 30, 2020 at 04:30 PM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rita L. Nelson.



April 30, 2020 at 04:15 PM

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“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Rita L. Nelson.



April 30, 2020 at 01:47 PM

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“ Hugs and prayers to the Nelson family Rita was a wonderful lady She was always helping out friends and neighbors whenever she could Our barn burned April of 1983 The next day Rita came to the house with food This was not long after the death of Ryan and she still had the energy to help others. She will be missed by her many friends as well as her family

**Virginia Wiedenfeld** - April 30, 2020 at 01:40 PM