

Kathryn J. Nelson



Kathryn J. Nelson, 81, resident of the Inn On Westport, Sioux Falls, SD, died Monday, June 14,

2004 at the Sioux Valley Hospital Hospice Cottage.

Kathryn, daughter of Irvin and Erma Jensen, was born October 9, 1922 in rural Turner County, SD. She attended elementary school in Spring Valley Township and graduated from Hurley High School in 1940. On May 7, 1942, she was married to Kermit R. Nelson in a double wedding ceremony at the family farm with her sister, Dorothy and Milo Preheim. They dually celebrated their common anniversary many years—one of the last on their 55th with a family commemorative celebration complete with flowers and cake replicating their wedding day. Prior to marriage, Kathryn was employed in Viborg and Yankton and later in Wakonda and Marion. The couple also owned and operated an appliance store and refrigeration service in Viborg for several years. They resided in Wakonda, SD, Windom, MN,

Viborg, and Marion, SD. After retiring, they moved to Sioux Falls. Her husband, Kermit preceded her in death in 1999.

Kathryn was a member of First Baptist Church in Viborg. She was a past member of Rebecca and Eastern Star Lodges, member of the Nimble Club of Marion for 44 years, a Den Mother and 4-H leader. For many years she served on the Board of Directors of the Sioux Falls Chapter of the American Parkinson's Disease Assoc. and also the Parkinson's Assoc. of SD - an affiliate of the National Parkinson's Foundation.

Kathryn was an active and effective advocate for Parkinson's patients with members of Congress, and raised money for the Parkinson's organizations through her artwork. She continued painting during advanced illness due to Parkinson's disease and was recognized in South Dakota art com-

petition in the senior division. In 2001, she was awarded a Senior Achievement Award for her accomplishments in Arts and Entertainment. Kathryn was highly respected and widely loved by those she touched with her life. She was admired for the courage and grace with which she lived with Parkinson's Disease for over 25 years.

She is survived and loved by two sons and two daughters: Dr. Neil Nelson of Rhinelander, WI and his special friend Sharon Layton of Duluth, MN, Dr. James Nelson and wife Sue of Huron SD, Clair Ensz and her husband Mark

and Marlene Borchardt and husband Max, all of Sioux Falls; two sisters Margaret Hofer of Vallejo, CA and Dorothy Preheim of Parker, SD; and Kathryn's special friend, Ned Kemp of Sioux Falls. She also leaves 16 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

Services were held Thursday, June 17, 2004 at First Baptist Church, Viborg with Pastor Charles Glanzer officiating. Kathy Olsen was the organist with special music by the grandchildren. Interment was in the Baptist Cemetery, Viborg.

NELSON, Kathryn J. (Jensen)

October 9, 1922
rural Turner County
June 14, 2004
Sioux Falls

Viborg Enterprise
June 24, 2004