



## Mrs. Betty Mylet Nielsen

August 31, 1925 - November 30, 2019

Mrs. Betty Nielsen, died November 30, 2019 at Emerald Crest Memory Care in Minnetonka, MN where she resided for the past 2 ½ years. She was 94 years old.

A Funeral Service will be held at 11 A.M. on Friday, December 13 at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd at 4801 France Ave S in Edina, MN. A public visitation with the family will be from 10:15 – 10:45 AM that morning at the church. A luncheon will follow. Committal will be at 4:30p.m. later in the day at Fort Snelling National Cemetery where she will be buried with her husband.

Condolences and memorials can be sent to: Randy Nielsen, 10 Knollwood Court, Mason City, IA 50401. Memorials can be designated. Undesignated memorials will be sent to Alzheimer's Disease research.

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Betty Mylet (Purcell) Nielsen was born on August 31, 1925 in Omaha Nebraska, to Ralph Sherman and Geneva Leona (Johnson) Purcell. She was baptized in June of 1936 on Children's Day at the Methodist church Laurel NE. She lost her dad to an infection at age 9. From there her mom had a maternity home in their house. With little money there was little opportunity for

her when she graduated from high school. However, in 1933, right when she was 18 years old, as she put it, “an unheard of opportunity came along” when the US congress created the U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps to solve the acute nursing shortage. The fund provided her with tuition, room, board, books, uniforms and a monthly \$5 stipend. She had to promise to serve as a nurse at home or abroad for the duration of the war.

So Betty enrolled in the Nebraska Methodist Hospital School of Nursing, Omaha, NE as a Cadet Nurse. She was President of the Class of 1947 – and later (at their 50th Re-union) she called those years some of the best of her life.

The war ended before she could be called to serve, but for the next half century, Betty devoted herself to her patients, family and community. Her professional career included positions as charge nurse and supervisor in Nebraska, Minnesota and North Dakota. She also volunteered extensively, offering her nursing talents to oversee blood bank donations, school vaccines, flu shot, and physicals to students at St Cloud State and the state penitentiary.

Soon after graduating from nursing school she met and was married to Merl Dean Luther Nielsen. They were married at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Laurel Nebraska by his father Rev. Niels Peter Nielsen on November 9, 1947. (Prior to that, in August of 1947) Betty was confirmed in the Lutheran Church. They were married for 31 years until he died of cancer in 1978.

Betty was a caring mother who got her children involved in all kinds of extra curricular activities and proud to be a Registered Nurse. She loved her grandchildren and enjoyed spending time with them.

After retirement she lived at 7500 York in Edina – and enjoyed singing with the Bloomingtones and line dancing with the Bzz . She later lived at the Summit

Place in Eden Prairie, and finally Emerald Crest in Minnetonka.

After marriage she was always a member of a Lutheran church. For the past 20 years she was a member of the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.

Betty was preceded in death by her mom and dad, her husband, Merl Dean Luther Nielsen, and all of her siblings: Everett Purcell (Laverne), Gene Purcell, Duane Purcell (Jeri), Marilyn Knudson, Gladys Close (Lee) and Dale Purcell.

Betty is survived by 5 children: Larry Nielsen (Linda) of Lakeville, MN; Nancy Jo Nielsen of New Hope, MN; Randy Nielsen (Deb) of Mason City, IA; Merlajean Gartland (Steve) of Plymouth, MN and Mark Nielsen (Carol) of Phonex AZ. Also, 7 grandchildren: Michael Nielsen, Janna Nobleza (Jeff), Luke Gartland, Jaclyn Nielsen, Ryan Nielsen, Candice Nielsen, Cory Nielsen. Also great grandchildren: Luke Nielsen, Hailey Nielsen, Charlotte Nielsen, and Zander Nobleza. Also many nieces and nephews.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 13. 10:15 AM - 10:45 AM (CT)

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
4801 France Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN

## Church Service

DEC 13. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
4801 France Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN

## Graveside Service

DEC 13. 4:30 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Fort Snelling National Cemetery  
7601 34th Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55450

# Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Betty Mylet Nielsen.* ”



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December 12, 2019 at 10:16 AM

“ Memories of Aunt Betty

*Sioux Falls, SD 1945. My brother Dan and I lived on the East side of Sioux Falls and Aunt Betty lived on the West side. Dan and I loved going over the river to be at Aunt Betty's house. We always had a great time and saw our cousin. I earned the name "U Rascal".*

*Lincoln, NE 1951. We went to family reunions in many different places. Aunt Betty was always proud to be part of the "Outlaws". They were always fun. For Dan and me, we loved to play with cousins and stand for pictures--sometimes not even making funny faces at the cousins, and even if Betty called me U Rascal. We had many of these family gatherings during a lot of years. Always fun.*

*In the 1970s we went to Okoboji, Iowa. Aunt Betty challenged me to line dance with her as she led a group of us. I was wearing my t-shirt, shorts and cowboy boots. I did my best and even got some "wahoo's, plus one very loud "U Rascal", of course from Aunt Betty.*

*In the 1990s we visited Aunt Betty in Minnesota many times. One time when she was just getting back to her apartment from swimming, we called her when we were only a few miles away. She told us to "come right over". When we got there, Betty had a beautiful lunch for Karen and me. Of course, I was greeted with a loud voice of "Hi U Rascal"! We had a wonderful lunch and a tour of all the pictures of our life.*

*A year or so ago, Karen and I visited Aunt Betty in her rest home. We walked into a room full of people watching TV. We felt lost, but looked around. A woman on the couch sounded out "Herb U Rascal". With tears in our eyes we followed her as she got up and lead us to her beautiful room. We talked for a long time and when we were about to leave, Aunt Betty insisted that we see ALL the pictures in the room and talk about every one of them. When we finally left, she said "Thanks for coming U Rascal".*

*Love from us both,  
Herb and Karen (Knudsen)*

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**Herb Knudsen** - December 11, 2019 at 05:57 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Betty Mylet Nielsen.*



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December 11, 2019 at 10:43 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Betty Mylet Nielsen.*



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December 09, 2019 at 12:00 PM