



Mary E. Nelson

September 5, 1937 - August 11, 2016

Mary E. Nelson, a very special wife, mother, and great lady, departed this life on August 11, 2016 in the care of Bethany Homes of Fargo at the age of 78. Mary Ernestine Hartfiel was born September 5, 1937 to Walter A. and Minna (Hansen) Hartfiel in St. Paul, Minnesota. Mary attended school there and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School in 1955. Following high school she was employed at Waldorf Paper Products near her home for about a year. In 1956, she enrolled at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota to pursue a major in business.

While in college she met and married Myron Nelson. They were married December 21, 1957 in St. Paul. Myron taught secondary education in North Dakota until moving to Valley City in 1963. Since then they farmed in the Fingal community and lived in Valley City.

In 1967, Mary joined the insurance department of American National Bank and later became the insurance manager. In 1989, she opened her own Nelson Insurance Office and later she acquired the Valley City Credit Bureau. After many years she sold her insurance business but retained the credit bureau until she retired in 2013.

Mary had many interest besides her businesses, including bowling and gardening. She was a member of the chamber of commerce for many years, serving as president once and was active in the women's bowling association. She also helped promote junior bowling activities. She acquired many bowling trophies and was inducted into the W.I.B.C. Hall of Fame at the state

convention one year. She was awarded the Hi-Line Award by the Valley City Chamber of Commerce. She was the first woman to receive this prestigious award. Mary also served as president of the P.I.A. (Professional Insurance Agents) for one year. She served on the supervisory committee of the First Community Credit Union for a number of years. Later she served on the Board of Directors for several years prior to retiring from business. She had also served on the senior citizens committee and Bridgeview Estates board until her health failed.

Mary also had a busy life raising her two sons, Jeffrey and Robert but always seemed to find time to help others. She served as treasurer of her church for many years. She had a strong faith and was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Valley City for over 50 years, participating in its choir and helping when and where needed.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her sister, Audrey (Earl) Johnson.

Mary is survived by her husband, Myron; sons, Jeffrey (Gail) Nelson and Robert Nelson, all of Valley City; a dear sister-in-law, Dorothy (Norman) Evers, two nieces and one nephew and their families, all of Minnesota. Besides these relatives, she leaves two special friends, Larry Robinson and Linda Holm.

The funeral service for Mary will be 11 am Tuesday, August 16 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Valley City. Visitation will be 5 to 7 pm Monday at the church and will continue one hour before the service at the church.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Oliver-Nathan Funeral Chapel, Valley City. An online guestbook is available at www.oliver-nathanchapel.com

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **15**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
202 NW 3rd St.
Valley City, ND

Funeral Service

AUG **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
202 NW 3rd St.
Valley City, ND

Tribute Wall

PS

“ Jeff & Bob - so sorry for the passing of you Mom.
God Bless.

Pam and Steve Stark

Pam Stark - August 15, 2016 at 03:13 PM

TM

“ Bob & Jeff

I am so sorry for you loss!! Your mom was always so kind!! Every time I saw her, she made the time to visit with me, she genuinely cared about people and it showed!!

Teri (Keaveny) McClafin

Teri McClafin - August 15, 2016 at 11:43 AM

LR

“ I was fortunate to get to know Mary while serving on the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce. She was a great lady, a very hard worker, and a good friend. Our years on the Board of the Chamber were very rewarding. Following our terms on the Chamber Board, we would meet once a month, or so, for lunch and catch up on things. She was proud of her family. Mary was a special person. She had strong values, and cared about her community and her church. She will be missed by many!

Larry Robinson - August 15, 2016 at 10:15 AM



“ *Kathy Reitan sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary E. Nelson*



Kathy Reitan - August 13, 2016 at 09:41 AM



“ *Mary Nelson lit a candle in memory of Mary E. Nelson*



Mary Nelson - August 12, 2016 at 12:20 PM



“ *Oh my I am so sorry you are all in my prayers I will miss Mary deeply she was like a Mother - my best friend - always had a listening ear every time I talk to her - with love Mary Lou Nelson*

Mary Nelson - August 12, 2016 at 08:31 AM