



After a courageous struggle, Jess Edward Nelson, age 91 of Sturgis, SD went to be with Jesus on July 27, 2016 at Sturgis Regional Hospital, Hospice Suite.

Jess was born June 14, 1925, at his parent's home in Seward County, NE to Carl H. and Margaret J. (Baker) Nelson. He attended grade school at Utica, then moved and attended Beaver Crossing High School starting in the 9th grade. He and his nephew, Norman Hohnbaum, were the only uncle/nephew pair to attend all 12 years of school together and graduate from Beaver Crossing.

After graduation, he worked on farms in the Waco, McCool, and York areas, and drove a semi-truck. In 1946, he started work as a mechanic at the Ford garage in York. He was promoted to Service Manager in 1960 and maintained that position until 1974.

Jess married Donna Beth Elenora Blum June 22, 1947, in York. They moved to Sturgis in 1974 and Jess assumed the Service Manager position at Jacobsen Ford-Mercury. The position was held until he retired in 1990. He continued to exchange cars

between Ford dealerships for a number of years.

Jess spent his spare time through the years remodeling their first old home and then finishing the home they built in Blucksberg near Sturgis. He volunteered doing road maintenance in Blucksberg, organized the Blucksberg Home Owners Board and served as president, was a member of the Blucksberg Paving Board, and was a source of information for new and old homeowners in the development.

He was a baptized member of the Emmanuel Lutheran Church in York. He was a charter member at Faith Lutheran Church in York and served on many boards and committees until they moved to Sturgis. Jess was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Sturgis where he also served the church and participated in Bible studies. He also served on an ushering team. He was a member of The Westerners International. Jess was always there to help a friend or stranger in need.

Cherishing memories are his wife of 69 years, Donna, Sturgis; three daughters and their families: Linda (Rev. Phillip) Hannemann, Lincoln, NE, Heather (Rod) West, CA, Christopher (Elizabeth) Hannemann and their children, Gabriel, Isabel, and Ava, IA, and Timothy (Johanna) Hannemann and their children, Joella and Broderick, NE; Eileen (Bruce) Ness, Albert Lea, MN, Brent (Katherine) Ness and their children, Lydia and Cecilia, NY, Stuart (Christie) Ness and their children, Travis and David, MN,

and Scott (Meghan) Ness, MI; Beverly (Philip) Seifert, Oregon City, OR, Victoria (Alex) Duffey, WA, and Ryan Seifert, OR; sister-niece Gwen (Dean) Pankoke, Beaver Crossing, NE, other nieces and nephews, and many other relatives and special friends.

Jess was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Fay and Albert; and three sisters, Mae Hohnbaum, Lula Nelson, and Ruth Smith.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you do a kind deed for a friend or stranger, as Jess always thought of others before himself. Jess has donated his eyes for optic research so others might see.

Memorials will be distributed by the family to organizations that Jess supported.

Send condolences to the family at www.kinkadefunerals.com

Burial will be at the Utica Cemetery in Utica, Nebraska



In Loving Memory Of



Jess Edward Nelson

1925 ~ 2016

A Friend in Heaven

My last day on earth had come to a final end,
Some angels were taking me home to a friend.
God must be very patient he's waiting just for me,
At long last this place called heaven I will see.

Sick, worry and trouble aren't mine any more
Things are right with me I have settled the score.
Excitement mounts within me, I can't hardly wait,
It won't be long now till I see heaven's gate.

The gate to heaven is awesome and opened wide,
I can see God, relatives and friends inside.
They gather around as though I were a lost sheep
With all that singing and praying, makes me weep.

God took time to show me around this grand place,
It surprised me how many people I know by face.
There are flowers, birds and trees everywhere,
Mountains so tall all I could do was stare.

Time is endless and perfect up here for us all,
The old are so young and the crippled walk tall.
I see my mother, she's young again and oh so fair,
The gray is gone and color is back in her hair.

There is only one more person I'm waiting to greet
Then hand in hand we'll walk down the golden street.
I'm so glad I accepted God as my personal friend,
For all of this is just the beginning not the end.



For wither thou goest I will go;
And where thou lodgest I will lodge.
Thy people shall be my people,
And thy God, my God.
Ruth 1:16

In Loving Memory Of

Jess Edward Nelson

Born

June 14, 1925
Seward County, Nebraska

Died

July 27, 2016
Sturgis, South Dakota

Funeral Services

Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Grace Lutheran Church
Sturgis, South Dakota

Officiants

Pastor Willard Olsen
Pastor Denzel Nonhof
Pastor Corey Harouff

Musicians

Linda Hannemann ~ Eileen Nelson ~ Beverly Seifert

Musical Selections

"Lift High The Cross" "Beautiful Savior" "Amazing Grace"

Pallbearers

Marlowe Kinkade ~ Keith Smit ~ Ernie Miller ~ Robert Kaufman
All Other Family and Friends Present

Interment

Friday, August 5, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
Utica Cemetery
Utica, Nebraska

The family would like to invite you to join them for fellowship and lunch following the service in the church basement. We thank you for your presence and condolences.