Doris Geels

Alberta Doris Jansen, a daughter of Evert and Gertie Fopma Jansen, was born on May 30, 1932, near Kilduff, Iowa. She grew up on the farm near Kilduff and attended a country school until 7th grade and finished the 8th grade at the Sully Christian Grade School in Sully, Iowa. She was baptized and made profession of her faith at the Sully Christian Reformed Church where she was a faithful, lifelong member.

On December 29, 1953, she was united in marriage with Nelson Geels, a son of Rev. John and Betty Kemper Geels, at the Sully Christian Reformed Church in Sully, Iowa, and to this union five children were born: Gary Eugene, Beverly Jean, Norma Diane, Beth Joan and Bruce Nelson. Doris and Nelson lived near Lynnville and Kellogg, Iowa for a short time following their marriage and then moved into Sully where they raised their family. She held various jobs throughout her life which included daycare, housecleaning, and she was on the cleaning staff at the Central College Library.

Then in January, 2009, Doris was diagnosed with a recurrence of her colon cancer. Doris faced this diagnosis with the same quiet grace and courage that was evident throughout her life. On Saturday morning, January 23, 2010, at her home in Sully, at the age of 77 years, she completed her journey here on earth and met her Lord and Savior face to face. Those who will cherish her memory are her faithful husband of almost 57 years, Nelson; their five children and their spouses, 11 grandchildren and 2 step-grandchildren. They and their families are:

Gary and Susan Geels of Panora, Iowa; Beverly and Mike Van Genderen of Lynville, Iowa; Norma and Karl Bultsma of Waterloo, Iowa; Beth and David Van Maanen of Pella, Iowa; Bruce and Brenda Geels of Pella, Iowa. Of her original family Doris leaves the following brothers and sisters and their spouses: Charlie W. and Cornelia Jansen of Cutlerville, Michigan, Guybert C. and Janet Jansen of Pella, Berdena E. and Junior Vos of Sully, Edwin E. and Arlyn Jansen of Cutlerville, Michigan, Wilma P. and Delmar Van Kooten of Pella, Melvin L. and Marilyn Jansen of Newton, Iowa; along with the following sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Lillian (Geels) and William Nikkel of Pella, Chester and Greta Geels of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Barbara (Geels) and Stan Cole of Whittier, California, Betty (Geels) Lee LeFebre of Denver, Colorado, John and Linda Geels of Littleton, Colorado.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents, Evert and Gertie Jansen; her parents-in-law, Rev. John and Betty Geels; her twin brothers, Edwin James and Earl Lester Jansen, who died at a young age, and her brother, Dick Rutford Jansen who died during World War II, and his wife Wilma Sparks. She was a loving and caring daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother. Doris was a great cook and enjoyed collecting dolls and reading. She loved sports and proudly followed her children’s and grandchildren’s sporting activities, as well as the Iowa Hawkeyes. Doris had a strong and simple faith and will always be cherished by those who loved her.

Funeral services were held Jan. 27, at the Sully Christian Reformed Church.

For those desiring, memorials may be given for 'The Back to God Hour' Christian radio ministry broadcast or Hospice of Pella, Iowa.