

**ROSE MARIE  
SUNLEAF**  
Dec. 2, 1937 - Dec. 9, 2021

Record 12-16-2021



Rose Marie Sunleaf, 84, formerly of Bellevue and Montezuma, passed away December 9, at Simpson Memorial Home, West Liberty. Visitation will be from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m., December 17, at St. John Lutheran Church, Bellevue. Services will follow at 11:30 a.m. Burial will be in St. John Lutheran Cemetery, Bellevue. Memorials may be given to the Wilton Ambulance Service or the Bellevue Fire Department in her memory. Condolences may be left at [www.bentleyfuneralhome.com](http://www.bentleyfuneralhome.com).

Rose was born December 2, 1937, the daughter of Orion Glen and Alvina (Goetz) DeGear, in Bellevue, Iowa. Rose graduated from Bellevue High School with the Class of 1955. She attended the Finley Hospital School of Nursing, becoming a registered nurse in 1958.

In 1965, Rose married the love of her life, Roger Sunleaf, at St. John Lutheran Church, Bellevue. Roger passed away September 14, 2003.

Rose worked as a surgical nurse for a short time at Mt. Siani Hospital in Milwaukee, WI before returning to Bellevue to work as a registered nurse at Bellevue Community Hospital.

Rose and Roger later moved to Montezuma, where she continued her nursing career at the Swayer Nursing Home. She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church and the Humane Society of Iowa. She loved the South and supported the restoration of the Destrehan and Jefferson Parish Plantations in Louisiana. Rose liked traveling with her husband, Roger, reading about the South and was a Civil War history buff.

Rose enjoyed spending time outdoors, especially playing golf and gardening. Rose loved her home, "Belle Helene", where in fifty acres there were always wild animals to enjoy. She also dearly loved her four cats, Gino, Happy, Pepper and Scarlett.

Rose will be dearly missed by many nieces, nephews, great and great-great nieces and nephews, and close friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roger; her parents, Orion and Alvina DeGear; two brothers, Gerald DeGear and Donald DeGear; and three sisters, Mary Clemens, Virginia Ackerman and Joan Roling.