



Audrey Kay Nelson

September 29, 1934 - January 28, 2019

Audrey Kay Nelson, 84, of Birchdale, MN, died on Monday, January 28, 2019 at Sanford Bemidji Medical Center in Bemidji, MN. She fought a short, hard battle with cancer and was surrounded by her family at her passing.

Audrey was born on September 29, 1934 in Littlefork, MN to parents Hilmar and Lula (Lewis) Rud, the youngest of four children. She attended Border School, where she was the Koochiching County spelling champion as an 8th grader. She graduated from Indus High School in 1952 and attended flight attendant school in Minneapolis. Audrey worked in Minneapolis until she married Reuben Nelson on November 21, 1959. They made their home in downtown Birchdale where she resided until her death.

Audrey worked for many years at the Baudette Region, and then as a bookkeeper at Rainy Lake Distributing in International Falls until her retirement.

After leaving the workforce at age 65, Audrey became the office manager for her son-in-law Soren's bus company. She learned to play the upright bass and was one of the founding members of the Sloughgrass family band.

She spent her retirement years walking, reading, gardening, watching Wheel of Fortune, complaining about the post office and touring extensively with Sloughgrass, throughout Minnesota and beyond. She was always a featured character on the annual Sloughgrass family 4th of July parade float.

Audrey was a member of the Birchdale Congregational Church where she volunteered to mow the lawn every summer. She was the treasurer of the Birchdale Cemetery Association, plus she ran Birchdale's Memorial Day program and for decades, placed the graveside flags honoring veterans.

Audrey was preceded in death by her husband, Reuben; parents, Hilmar and Lu; sister, Jessie Dahl; and brother, John Rud.

Audrey is survived by her daughters, Christine (David) Hultman, and Judith Nelson (Soren Olesen), all of Birchdale; four grandchildren, Carl (Ariel) Hultman of Birchdale, Gary (Ashley) Hultman of Galax, Virginia; Sofia Olesen of Moorhead, MN, and Holger Olesen, currently attending university in Johnson City, Tennessee; two great-grandchildren, Braiden and Logan of Birchdale, and sister Zelpha Crawford of Loman, MN .

A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. at the Birchdale Congregational Church in Birchdale followed by lunch.

Interment will be at the Birchdale Cemetery in Birchdale at a later date.

Memorials to the Birchdale Church would be preferred.

Cemetery

Birchdale Cemetery

Birchdale, MN,

Events

FEB **Memorial Service** 01:00PM

9

Birchdale Congregational Church

Birchdale, MN, US

Comments



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Audrey Kay Nelson.



February 07, 2019 at 08:47 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Audrey Kay Nelson.



February 05, 2019 at 02:53 PM



“ Wendy Ginter lit a candle in memory of Audrey Kay Nelson



Wendy Ginter - February 04, 2019 at 03:44 PM



“ Zelpha purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Audrey Kay Nelson.



Zelpha - February 04, 2019 at 01:24 PM



“ Christine, Judith and families - We were so sad to hear of Audrey's passing. She was so sweet. We have many fond memories of her. She'll be missed by so many.

Love, Susan and Merlin



Susan Sanden - January 31, 2019 at 12:39 PM



“ So sorry to hear of your loss. Aunt Audrey was surely enough a dear lady. When you as a family reflect on all of the ventures and adventures you have shared of the past several years, may fond memories flood your souls! She was a late bloomer in life to express her joyous talent but none the less, simply divine. Love, Ron & Lavenda Dahl

Ron Dahl - January 30, 2019 at 03:35 PM



“ We are so sorry to hear of Audrey's passing. Our deepest condolences to the family. She was a wonderful kind hearted person with a big smile on her face. She will be missed.

Joe and Mary Dion



Mary Dion - January 30, 2019 at 11:13 AM



“ Our heartfelt condolences to the entire family. Sara & Steve Dobbs

Sara Dobbs - January 30, 2019 at 11:03 AM



“ So sorry for your loss will miss seeing her on her walk down to the park. She always had a smile.

Mary Roche



Mary Roche - January 30, 2019 at 09:12 AM



“ So sorry for your loss. Audrey taught me some basics of playing the bass. She was a sweet lady and I will miss seeing her in the band. (((Hugs))) to your family. Kim Moser

Kim Moser - January 29, 2019 at 10:01 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss. Heaven has gained a very sweet lady. Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Louise and Tim Kahler

Louise Kahler - January 29, 2019 at 09:39 PM



“ I close my eyes and see the big chello looking even larger next to the petite lovely lady playing it.
I am deeply saddened by the news of Audrey's passing. my heartfelt condolences to you and your family.

pamela VanDamme - January 29, 2019 at 09:32 PM



“ So sorry for the loss of Audrey, she was a great lady, she will be sadly missed with the band, our love to all of you and Good bless .

Shirley - January 30, 2019 at 09:00 AM



“ Our deepest sympathy for your loss. Audrey was a beautiful person and we will miss her beautiful smile. (((hugs)))

Lanny & Shelley Johnson - January 29, 2019 at 08:48 PM



“ Pam Riggs lit a candle in memory of Audrey Kay Nelson



Pam Riggs - January 29, 2019 at 08:44 PM



“ Our deepest sympathy for your loss. Love Cindy & Bruce



Cindy & Bruce Cassibo - January 29, 2019 at 08:43 PM



“ Our hearts are saddened by the loss of Audrey. She was a beautiful and kind woman. She will be missed by many!



Gary & Kristy Satre - January 29, 2019 at 08:31 PM



“ Sympathy to Audrey's family. She was a lovely lady and we will miss her in Birchdale.



Jan & Russ Smart - January 29, 2019 at 01:46 PM



“ Dan Smith lit a candle in memory of Audrey Kay Nelson



Dan Smith - January 29, 2019 at 01:23 PM



“ So sorry to hear about your loss I know her sister and brother will be glad to see her again

Russell Dahl - January 29, 2019 at 09:57 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Just remember all those pleasant memories are one of God's gift that. Death cannot destroy.

Marvin & Beverly Wittler.

Beverly Wittler - January 30, 2019 at 05:58 PM



“ Judith, Christine, hubbies, kids, grands: Our condolences to u folks. Didn't know Audrey well, but she had to b great to have great people as u all, what a great lady to have mirrors as u peeps.. Cotton Friends- Frank and Jan W.

frank wendell - February 01, 2019 at 10:01 AM



“ Christine, Judith, and Family: So sorry for your loss. Your Mother was such a Sweetheart. I guess I've known her my whole life and I know she had to get angry or upset at times but not once did I ever see it, always had a smile. Our Community lost another Great One, she will be missed.

Darrell Ulrich - February 07, 2019 at 02:39 PM