



## Lela M. (Cornelius) Claussen

June 20, 1935 - July 20, 2020

Lela M. (Cornelius) Claussen, 85, of Kearney, died Monday, July 20, 2020 at the Good Samaritan Society, St. St. John's Home in Kearney. Private family Memorial Services will be held 10:00 a.m., Monday, August 3, 2020 at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services with Pastor Kevin Holloway officiating. Burial will follow at Kearney Cemetery. Visitation will be from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Sunday, August 2, 2020 at Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral Home. Memorials are suggested to be made to Kearney First Baptist Church or Salvation Army.

Lela was born June 20, 1935 in Kearney to Carl J. and Anna (Crow) Cornelius Sr. She grew up in Kearney and graduated from Longfellow High School in 1953. She attended the University of Wyoming and University of Nebraska Medical Center earning her degree in Nursing. Lela married Joseph Williams February 8, 1951 in Kearney, NE. Lela married Dwayne Claussen June 3, 1960 in Laramie, Wyoming.

Lela was a Registered Nurse, Certified Public Health Nurse, and was a Director of Nursing and Program Administrator at numerous locations around the country. Lela was a Board Member for Kearney Center for Nursing, and for Modoc County Schools in California.

Lela was an active member of the Kearney First Baptist Church, Eastern Star, and Daughters of the American Revolution. She loved to play the piano, quilt, read, listen to late-night radio, and if she was cooking for a few, she cooked for an army was her motto.

Lela is survived by her sons, Hart (Jayne) Williams of Eugene, OR; John (Lilies) Claussen of Grand Lodge, MI; Jay (Debra) Claussen of Omaha, NE; daughters, LeAnn Reed of Atascadero, California, Sarah (Eric) Drum of Middletown, PA. She has 10 grandchildren; 1 great grandchild; brother-in-law, Howard Roberts Jr. of Omaha, NE; sister-in-law, Rose Cornelius of Sidney, NE. and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Lela was preceded in death by her husband, 4 brothers, and 1 sister.

# Cemetery Details

## Kearney Cemetery

4400 Avenue I  
Kearney, NE 68847

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**AUG 2.** 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl  
2421 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 237-2259  
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

## Private Family Service

**AUG 3** (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl  
2421 Avenue A  
Kearney, NE 68847  
(308) 237-2259  
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Lela M. (Cornelius) Claussen*

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January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *I had the great honor of playing the piano next to Lela at the organ for many worship services at Kearney First Baptist. It has been several years since we picked out music, played it, and lamented our mistakes after the service. Neither of us wanted our missed notes to interfere with the messages in the great old hymns. She had music in her soul and it came out through the keyboard. One of the most special times to me was when we played a medley of patriotic songs. She was a delight to know and is, no doubt, enjoying and adding to all the melodies of the heavenly choirs. She also teased Rob often and was overly grateful for any little thing he did to help her around her house. We both were blessed to know her. -- Val and Rob Gwin*

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**Rob and Val Gwin** - August 02, 2020 at 05:12 PM



“ *From Georgia Cleland and the Cleland family, Lela was a very dear friend that I knew since we were both children. I have so many fond memories of the times we were together. She was a very sweet, caring person and I know she is with the Lord now. I'm so sorry I can't attend the viewing, but I'm in the hospital. I wanted so much to say hello to John and all the family there. Please know Lela was loved by all of us and that our prayers are with you.*

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**Steven Cleland** - August 02, 2020 at 10:59 AM

TF

“ *the Carl J. Cornelius, Jr. Family purchased the Love's Journey for the family of Lela M. (Cornelius) Claussen.*



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**the Carl J. Cornelius, Jr. Family** - August 01, 2020 at 12:29 PM

JB

“ *Such a joy to know Lela. So fun to visit with from politics to faith. Her deep abiding faith was an inspiration to all of us. She will be missed by all who had the good fortune to know her. Our sympathy and prayers to your family.*  
*Jim and Julie Brooker*

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**Julie Brooker** - July 31, 2020 at 05:07 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Lela M. (Cornelius) Claussen.*



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July 31, 2020 at 03:10 PM

VH

“ So many wonderful visits with Lela. Everything from gardening, to baking, to parties, music, her life in Kearney and so many other places. The visits about life were rich. The visits about politics challenging and not always agreeable. The visits about faith edifying, deep, and thoughtful and often led to times of worship together. Lela loved to talk! Oh my how she loved to talk!

*We laughed together. We cried together. Meaningful times. My times in prayer with her will be forever treasured. My family always knew we were loved by Lela and we could count on her prayers.*

*It's hard to imagine a world without Lela living in it. She was a mentor, a sister in Christ, feisty as all get out and stubborn as a mule but she loved deeply and cared in more ways than many will ever know. I still can hear her laugh, see her smile and smell the rose scent on her neck when we hugged.*

*I've been blessed to call her my friend.*

*My love and prayers to each of you!*

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**Vicki Holloway** - July 24, 2020 at 02:51 AM

PC

“ We enjoyed our visits with Aunt Lela when we took my dad up to stay with her during their summer visits. She always made us feel loved and appreciated. We know she loved the Lord Jesus and she is with Him now. We pray for the family at this time of loss. Preston (Buzzy) and Carol Cornelius

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**Preston Cornelius** - July 22, 2020 at 07:09 PM

JM

“ Our prayers and condolences to the family of Lela. She was a dear lady, and loved the Lord so much. Loved visiting with her and sharing scripture discussions and stories of life. Dan and Janelle Myers

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**Janelle Myers** - July 22, 2020 at 09:11 AM

SH

*Lela was my friend and other mother for over 49 years. Our friendship started when I dated her oldest son Joe. Even though they moved away, she continued to be a mentor in my life. I will always be thankful for her encouraging me to think beyond human limitations to thinking of the God who is not limited. She taught me to pray and to believe those prayers could be answered, that the kingdom of heaven is within us. It changed my life.*

*I have so many good memories of Lela, her husband Dwayne who walked me down the isle at my wedding, and all her children now grown. She was a great cook, my favorite meal was her secret chicken wings and her home baked bread. When I was 16 she crocheted me a poncho. That summer I spent with the family in Santa Fe was the highlight of high school. She will be greatly missed this side of heaven. My sympathy and prayers go out to all of you. Love Susan Hayes Nevada*

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**Susan Hayes** - August 01, 2020 at 01:08 PM