



Arnelda Lucille Peterman

July 11, 1927 - June 25, 2025

In Loving Memory of Arnelda L. “Nellie” Peterman^[1]_{SEP} July 11, 1927 – June 25, 2025

CEDAR FALLS – Arnelda L. “Nellie” Peterman, age 97, of Cedar Falls, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at UnityPoint Allen Hospital in Waterloo, surrounded by her five daughters.

Nellie was born on July 11, 1927, in Hampton, Iowa, to George Henry and Wilhelmine Burmester Bergmann. She graduated from Hampton High School and attended Iowa State Teachers College (UNI) for two years. On August 3, 1947, she married the love of her life, Emory L. Peterman, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Hampton. They shared nearly 48 years of marriage before his passing in 1995.

Nellie was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She worked as a bookkeeper for the family business, Peterman and Haes Floor Covering Co. in Waterloo, and was deeply involved in her community. She was an active and longtime member of College Hill Lutheran Church, where her faith and friendships flourished. This is also where she met Emory while washing dishes.

She loved playing golf, crafting handmade cards, and gathering around the table for games. As a snowbird, Nellie cherished her winters in Arizona and

spent many hours golfing in leagues at Beaver Hills Country Club. She lived independently in her beloved home for 72 years — a true anchor to her family.

Nellie also held a special role in the lives of many international students from the University of Northern Iowa. She was affectionately known as an “American Grandma” — offering warmth, wisdom, and a sense of belonging to those far from home.

You always knew where you stood with Nellie. She lived with honesty, resilience, and grace — values she instilled in her family through quiet strength, unwavering faith, and steadfast love.


Nellie is survived by her five daughters: Carol (Jon) Reese of Cedar Falls, Beverly Andorf of Ames, Patricia (Judd) Hunemuller of Phoenix, Arizona, Nancy (David) Booth of Florence, Mississippi, and JoAnn (Richard) Yeates of West Des Moines.

She leaves behind nine grandchildren: Erica Andorf, Carson Andorf (Destri), Erin Getskow (Josh), Cari Clark (Adam), Jared Hunemuller, Samuel Booth, Emory Booth (Savannah), Matthew Yeates (Kaitlyn), and Megan Yeates (Jacob); nine great-grandchildren: Blayke Coleman (Draven), Marcus Coleman (Briona), Carissa Andorf, Caelyn Andorf, Hazel Getskow, Charlotte Getskow, Benjamin Getskow, Abigail Clark, and Drew Clark; and two great-great-grandchildren: Quincy McPeak and Lylah McPeak.

She also had numerous special nieces and nephews, all of whom held a meaningful place in her heart.

Nellie was preceded in death by her husband Emory; her parents; her sister, Alma Freie; her brothers, Donald and Marvin Bergmann; and her son-in-law, Michael Andorf.

A celebration of Nellie's life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, June 30, 2025, at College Hill Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. Visitation will begin at 10:00 a.m. at the church prior to the service. A luncheon will follow, with interment to take place afterward at Greenwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to College Hill Lutheran Church.  Condolences and memories may be shared online at: www.richardsonfuneralservice.com (<http://www.richardsonfuneralservice.com/>).

Cemetery Details

Greenwood Cemetery

the end of College St, north of First Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 273-8628

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

College Hill Lutheran Church
2322 Olive Street
Cedar Fall, IA 50613
(319) 266-1274
<http://college-hill.org>

Funeral Service

JUN 30. 11:00 AM (CT)

College Hill Lutheran Church
2322 Olive Street
Cedar Fall, IA 50613
(319) 266-1274
<http://college-hill.org>

Tribute Wall

ML

“ *Nellie was our neighbor but certainly much more than that, she and Emery were family to us. Such an amazing person who impacted all of us kids. The best was she'd always let us play in her yard, in fact, some of the best memories I have as a child were playing wiffle ball there on her driveway or using her putting green. Hope she and Emery are up in heaven smiling together again. God bless you all.*

Matt Luders - June 30, 2025 at 08:34 PM

“As an international student alone on my first weekend in Cedar Falls, I walked to College Hill Lutheran Church from my UNI dorm, and was greeted by Nellie, who was on usher duty that Sunday. We introduced ourselves, and when she learned I was from Malaysia, she excitedly mentioned that Carol and Jon were host family to several Malaysian students.

That was the start of a special relationship with “Grandma,” as I came to call her. I truly cherish the Sundays I spent with her – she picked me up outside my student housing apartment, I hauled my laundry into her Buick trunk, and off we went to church. After church, we spent the afternoons together - lunch (church potluck, a quick meal at a restaurant, or a wholesome meal at home that she effortlessly whipped up while I watched intently, trying to take notes so I can cook “American food” for myself), laundry, card games (she introduced me to Skip-Bo and Phase 10, while I introduced her Monopoly Deal), simple dinner (i.e., popcorn!) and sometimes, a grocery run, before she dropped me off, nourished and ready for another stressful week of graduate school. Long after graduate school, she continued to send me and my parents in Malaysia beautifully HANDMADE cards.

I baked my first ever batch of chocolate chip cookies with her, made cards in her basement with her, and had many meaningful conversations as I learned about her life and she, mine. In Malaysia, I grew up with grandparents with whom I did not share a language; Grandma Nellie was in many ways the grandmother I never quite had. I will miss her.

Rest peacefully, Grandma. May your memory be a blessing.

-Indrani-

Indrani K Thiruselvam - June 29, 2025 at 05:15 PM

IH

“ Indrani and Hugo purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Arnelda Lucille Peterman.



Indrani and Hugo - June 29, 2025 at 05:07 PM

CH

“ Colorado Haes Herd purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Arnelda Lucille Peterman.



Colorado Haes Herd - June 28, 2025 at 10:51 PM

CH

“ Colorado Haes Herd planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Arnelda Lucille Peterman.

Colorado Haes Herd - June 28, 2025 at 10:51 PM

BL

“ Brett L. purchased the Pink Potpourri Bouquet for the family of Arnelda Lucille Peterman.



Brett L. - June 28, 2025 at 02:57 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Arnela Lucille Peterman.*



June 27, 2025 at 02:55 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to all of Nellie's family. I know how much she always treasured you all. She was a beautiful lady inside and out. I remember Nellie's laughter. Wishing you all Peace and Comfort*
Lisa Berg

Lisa Berg - June 26, 2025 at 08:39 PM