



Nellie Geneva Bast

June 28, 1926 - March 23, 2026

Nellie Geneva Bast, 99, of Cedar Falls, was called to Heaven on Monday, March 23, 2026, with family by her side.

She was born on June 28, 1926, in Dunlap, Kansas, the daughter of John Sherman Blanton and Leora Eva (Parrish) Blanton. At age 16 she ventured from Council Grove, KS to Cedar Falls, Iowa to live with her sister Maxine and brother-in-law Tom Scobee, attended Cedar Falls High School, and began working at Dutcher's Diner on Main Street. She met the love of her life, Henry W. Bast, at a dance at Electric Park Ballroom after he returned from service in World War II. They married June 20th, 1947 at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, IA. They were married for 75 ½ years, when Henry passed away a month shy of age 102. She later worked as a bookkeeper with First National Bank until they started their family. Nellie later returned to working at Banco/Norwest/ Wells Fargo until she retired in 1983, leaving banking for her greater passion of caring for children.

Post retirement they volunteered with Mission Builders traveling the Midwest to assist with church renovations in three states. They volunteered at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. They travelled the country visiting relatives. But most of all – she continued to invest her life into loving and caring for children. She created and donated hundreds of baby quilts and worked with the Do-Day Quilters at St. John Church.

Nellie enjoyed gardening, crocheting, reading & especially FAMILY. She loved flowers and had a beautiful assortment of wildflowers, perennials, and weeds in her gardens. She loved animals, especially her faithful companions throughout her retirement years.

Nellie is survived by her children, William (Erin) Bast of Springfield, MO, Jane (Ron) Bolin of Cedar Falls, Judy (Kirk) Nelson of Orono, MN, Harlan Bast of Phoenix, AZ; grandchildren, Kris (Wes) Turner, Chad (Erin) Bolin, Laura (Will) Overstreet, Aaron Bast & Tiffanee, Abbie Langman, Anna (Jerry) Ruschmeier, Andrew (Lindsay) Bast, Adam Bast, Alan (Alexis) Bast, Jonah Bast and Ella DiCiolla; great-grandchildren, Madek, Miriam, Avery, Isaac, Chloe, Donnick, Lucy, Rowan, Emberlynn, Whitaker, Barek, Anna Bee, Elliot, Berkeley, and Merrick.

She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, four brothers: Junior, Dick, Bill and Robert Blanton; three sisters: Roberta Olson, Maxine Scobee, and Doris Chase.

Celebration of Nellie's Life will be 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at St. John Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls with burial following at the Garden of Memories in Waterloo. Visitation will be 4:00-7:00 p.m. Monday, March 30th at Richardson Funeral Service in Cedar Falls.

Memorials may be directed to Cedar Valley Hospice and St. John Lutheran Church.

Special thanks to Cedar Valley Hospice for their extraordinary care and attention to Nellie and her family.

Cemetery Details

Garden of Memories

3669 Logan Ave
Waterloo, IA 50703

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 30. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Richardson Funeral Service
615 Main Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 266-3525
richardsonfuneralservice@gmail.com
<http://richardson.funeralplan2.com>

Funeral Service

MAR 31. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John American Lutheran Church
715 College
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 268-0165
<http://stjohncf.org>

Tribute Wall

DL

“ David L. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nellie Geneva Bast.

David L. - April 01 at 11:27 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nellie Geneva Bast.



March 30 at 01:16 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nellie Geneva Bast.

March 30 at 09:43 AM

CW

“ Mrs. Bast, our beloved neighbor, we are thankful for the memories we have of you. All the years of giving us tomatoes, cucumbers, and flowers from your garden, out walking your dog, stopping for a visit when you'd see us. My girls are grown and moved away, but both have fond memories of you. You will be missed. Rest in peace, sweet lady. Crystal, Angelle and KD Waltz (your neighbors at 1610)

Crystal JoNae Waltz - March 29 at 05:41 PM

TF

Oh, she loved the neighborhood & her neighbors. Thank you for sharing this & your sentiments.♥♥

The Bast Family - April 03 at 07:27 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nellie Geneva Bast.*



March 29 at 05:36 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nellie Geneva Bast.

March 29 at 05:36 PM

JM

“ *John, Colleen and the Manley's purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Nellie Geneva Bast.*



John, Colleen and the Manley's - March 28 at 06:27 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Nellie Geneva Bast.*



March 28 at 01:10 PM

WJ

“ With love, Kristin and Jonah purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Nellie Geneva Bast.



With love, Kristin and Jonah - March 28 at 12:16 AM

WJ

“ With love, Kristin and Jonah planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nellie Geneva Bast.

With love, Kristin and Jonah - March 28 at 12:16 AM



“ Sorry to read of your mother's passing. What a long life she lived and the obit reads like it was a great life. Peace be with you all. Jeff Koch

Jeff Koch - March 26 at 04:07 PM

JU

Thank you for your kind words,
The Bast Family

judy - April 03 at 07:19 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nellie Geneva Bast.



March 26 at 09:19 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nellie G Bast.

March 26 at 09:19 AM



“ Harlan Bast purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Nellie Geneva Bast.



Harlan Bast - March 25 at 08:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nellie G Bast.

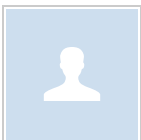
March 25 at 06:52 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Nellie Geneva Bast.



March 25 at 06:52 PM



“ Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Nellie Geneva Bast.



March 25 at 05:14 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nellie G Bast.

March 25 at 05:14 PM