



## Neysa Picklum

May 20, 1928 - December 29, 2020

Neysa Picklum, 92, passed away peacefully at her home on December 29, 2020. She was born Neysa June McNeley on May 20, 1928 in Des Moines, to Glen Golden McNeley and Marjorie Haussman McNeley.

She is predeceased by her parents, husband of 68 years Warren Picklum, and brothers David McNeley and Jim McNeley. She is survived by her sister Joanne Middleton of Ben Lomond, CA; children, Roger Picklum (Terrie Schultz) of Oakland, CA, and Sandra Molly Krause (Turk) of Cedar Falls IA; grandchildren Devon Picklum and Laurel Picklum; step-grandchildren Adam Krause, Noah Krause, Abigail Huettl, Alizah Maas; and many nieces and nephews.

When she was a young girl growing up in Des Moines, Neysa's Aunt Katherine told her to never mind what people expect of girls, you can do what you want to do! She attributed her life-long love of science to her father, and received a bachelor's degree in botany from Iowa State University in 1951, where she and her husband were briefly involved in efforts to integrate married student housing. They settled in Cedar Falls, where she later earned a teaching certificate from University of Northern Iowa, and she enjoyed a long career as a high school science teacher.

The family loved to go on camping and canoe trips, and on the many car

journeys would always have to stop by inviting fields or canyons to investigate rocks and plants and insects. One of Neysa's passions was gender equity in education. She was a leader in the Cedar Falls branch of the American Association of University Women, and was instrumental in organizing programs to raise awareness of equity issues in schools. Neysa was also an avid genealogist, and worked with B-29 veterans' groups to research the death of her brother David, whose plane was shot down over Osaka, Japan during WWII.

Neysa's love of science and nature was apparent in her beautiful garden. Her hostas will miss her, as will everyone who knew her.

The family is profoundly grateful to Mercy One Home Health and Cedar Valley Hospice for their compassion and care, and the wonderful friends she held dear to her heart.

# Tribute Wall

SK

“ Neysa was my third cousin. I met her in person only once in the summer of 2014 when I made a trip to her home in Iowa. We both had a passion for genealogy, and she had inherited a treasure trove of photographs and Blinn family artifacts that she showed me. Over a period of several years, she scanned many of the photos and sent the images to me, so that we were able to work together to identify many of the people in them. We helped each other in our research, shared our Ancestry trees, and sent each other many, many emails. I will never forget that Iowa trip --meeting Neysa and Warren, seeing their home, and her beautiful flower garden. I just found her obituary today, in May 2021, and it is a sad day for me. I will miss her but always be glad we found each other.

Susan Knost  
Charlotte, NC

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**Susan Knost** - May 16, 2021 at 10:02 AM

MS

“ Sending sympathy to Neysa's family and friends. I met Neysa through the Cedar Falls AAUW, where she was an active participant and leader. I especially remember her participation in a library meeting group about new technologies. Each month the group would get together and talk about new devices or programs. She was both generous and a life long learner. She is missed.

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**Marcy Seavey** - January 04, 2021 at 09:30 AM

VD

“ I want to extend my deepest sympathies to Neysa's family. She was one of a kind! I was fortunate to get to know Neysa through the Cedar Falls chapter of the American Association of University Women. We worked together on multiple projects toward gender equity in education during the early 1990s. I was new to the group and she quickly became one of my mentors and friends. I appreciated her no-nonsense communication style, and the many ways in which she volunteered to be a quiet servant leader. She also taught me about her love -- gardening -- and how to transplant hastas and irises. And she shared, oh did she share. I feel blessed to have known her. May she rest in peace. Victoria DeFrancisco

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Victoria P DeFrancisco - January 02, 2021 at 08:58 PM