



## Celia Lea Knoffloch

February 21, 1954 - February 20, 2025

Celia Lea (Dellinger) Knoffloch, age 70, of Storm Lake, Iowa passed away February 20, 2025 in Omaha, Nebraska.

Celebration of Life services will take place Friday, March 7, 2025 from 5-7:00 p.m. at Lake Avenue Lounge, 3rd floor, above Celia's Antiques in Storm Lake. Memorial services will be held Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Lake Avenue Lounge in Storm Lake. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Caring Paws Rescue PO Box 54 Storm Lake, Iowa. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

In a world that often rushes forward, Celia Knoffloch invited us to pause and look back - not with nostalgia or sadness, but with vision and joy. Although Celia has left us, the shimmer of possibility she brought to forgotten things remains. She passed away on February 20, 2025, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, NE, following a short battle with cancer.

Where others saw dusty relics, Celia saw stories waiting to be continued. Her small frame, dressed in her trademark overalls and collection of Birkenstocks, moved through her shop with the quiet authority of one who understood that value isn't always visible at first glance. "Everything has potential," she would say, running a knowing finger across the grain of an old dresser or holding a forgotten tool to the light. Through her kindness and wisdom, she taught all of us that you just have to be patient enough to see it.

Celia's story began on February 21, 1954, in Wichita, KS. Born to John Dellinger and Retha (Mohler) Cosby, in her early years she loved roller skating and riding bikes with her sisters, Cynthia and Paula. She was involved in gymnastics at Campus High School in Haysville, KS, where she graduated – and was crowned basketball queen – in 1972, but her true passion was cheerleading.

She earned her dental assistant certificate from American Dental Institute in Wichita, KS,

and then taught at her alma mater from 1976–1978. She was a security guard at the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka from 1982–1983. Small but powerful in her presence, it was the most secure the Capitol has ever been.

Celia married her biggest fan and notorious partner in crime, Orren Knoffloch, on December 3, 1977, and they were blessed with three children, Kristi, Bryan and Kimberly. Of the many collections she assembled, her family was the one she treasured most.

Celia's children inherited the qualities that made her so very special. Looking, acting and even talking like her mom, Kristi shares her love for junkin' and antiques. She's an advocate for the underserved, and, just like Celia, can't walk away from any animal in need. Blessed with quick minds and quicker tongues, their shared sense of humor is an heirloom she cherishes.

As undaunted and confident as his mother, Bryan follows Celia's mantra of not allowing what others think bother him or bring him down. And between the two of them, there isn't a bit of vintage music trivia that could stump them. Much like Celia, he finds contentment and happiness in the present moment and never hesitates to help people and animals who can't help themselves.

Kimberly inherited Celia's remarkable strength and determination. Whether moving furniture that's far too big for one person to move (and then doing it several times) to confronting life's challenges with courage, Kimberly embodies Celia's spirit of perseverance, and through Celia's example, she learned that obstacles are merely opportunities.

The family relocated to Storm Lake in 1983, where Celia held several jobs, including Merry Maids, flooring sales at Sid and Sams, and even as an Albert City-Truesdale school bus driver where the kids named her the "cool mom."

In 1996, she opened Floors, Etc., with her best friend, Robin Martin, and they operated the business together until 2014, when she decided selling antiques was more fun.

Throughout her lifetime, Celia had a love for antiques. For years, she was a fixture at local auctions and a celebrity at the Rembrandt Gym Auction House.

The true curiosity in a store brimming with curiosities was Celia herself - a bold and unstoppable spirit housed in an unassuming package. Customers came for vintage doorknobs and old signs but stayed for her sharp wit, unflinching honesty and kind ear. Shoppers found themselves leaving with not only a carefully wrapped treasure but also a

piece of wisdom, delivered with Celia's characteristic lack of ceremony and likely a few words you couldn't repeat on television.

Her shop wasn't merely a business; it was a philosophy she lived - a testament to the beauty of second chances and the art of seeing beyond the tarnish in things that others didn't want - and that ranged from antiques to animals, and, thankfully, to anyone who needed her. In Celia's hands, the discarded became discovered, the overlooked became admired, and the broken became beloved.

As we bid farewell to this remarkable collector, we might honor her best by adopting her perspective: by looking at the worn and weathered bits of our world and asking, "What could this become?" And if we follow Celia's example, it always becomes better.

Never one to walk away from an animal in need, she gave countless strays and unwanted pets an amazing life. Throughout the years, several were staples in the store, including Peaches the cockatoo, Red the red macaw, Friday Jo the blind cat, Sam the rescue cat with a broken jaw, and Hammy the cat with the shattered back leg. In the afterlife she'll be reunited with Timmy the Pomeranian, a beloved pet who will probably greet her by biting her once again, along with so many more buddies that had the opportunity to live with Celia and drive Orren crazy.

Celia was preceded in death by her parents John (Linda) Dellinger and Retha Cosby, mother and father-in-law Opal and Edwin Knoffloch, Aunt Vera Marietta, sister and brother-in-law Marietta and Larry Buller, infant grandson Kingston Krager and many close friends, including Sue Morrow.

Left to treasure her memory are her husband Orren Knoffloch; children Kristi (Kyle) Krager, Cushing, IA; Bryan (Kimberly) Johnson, Bennington, NE; and Kimberly (Sean) Garrett, Overland Park, KS; eight grandchildren: Krimson (7), Kreed (10), and Kreighton (15) Krager; Drake (17) and Holden (20) Johnson; Jackson (20), Katherine (24), and Jordan (26) Garrett; and sister, Cynthia Baldwin, Albuquerque, NM.

Her laughter may be gone and the building quieter because, as some may know, Celia did enjoy sneaking up on her friends with a trombone or old car horn. But the echoes of her impact on her family, her friends and the countless lives she touched will continue to resonate.

Of all the treasures she helped others find, Celia herself was the rarest - a one-of-a-kind spirit whose value was immeasurable and whose absence leaves our collection

incomplete.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

MAR 7. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Lake Avenue Lounge  
615 Lake Avenue N.  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

## Memorial Service

MAR 8. 10:00 AM (CT)

Lake Avenue Lounge  
615 Lake Avenue N.  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Celia Lea Knoffloch*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 07, 2025 at 12:14 PM

JS

“ *janie smith sportel lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch*



janie smith sportel - February 14 at 10:26 AM

NT

“ *I was in Storm Lake last October for a class reunion. We ended up chatting with Celia in her shop after discovering she had ties to Kansas which is where we live. She was delightful to talk to. So sad to hear of her passing. God bless.*

Nancy Turnage - March 08, 2025 at 12:25 PM

FH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 07, 2025 at 02:15 PM



“ 265 files added to the album LifeTributes



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - March 07, 2025 at 12:06 PM



“ Monica Miller lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch



Monica Miller - March 07, 2025 at 10:54 AM



“ Celia was indeed a one-of-a-kind treasure. She will be dearly missed and always remembered with a smile.

Todd DePue - March 06, 2025 at 10:46 AM



“ Cindy baldwin purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Celia Lea Knoffloch.



Cindy baldwin - March 05, 2025 at 04:11 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Celia Lea Knoffloch.



March 04, 2025 at 10:34 AM



“ *Amazing Arboricola was purchased for the family of Celia Lea Knoffloch.*



March 04, 2025 at 10:30 AM

SB

“ *A beautiful tribute to a beautiful soul. She will be missed. Her spirit will live on.*



Stacy Bezoni - March 03, 2025 at 08:31 PM

EG

“ *I got to know Celia well, I was a kid in 4-H and Truesdale softball with her kids Bryan and Kristi. She was the fun mom, she would always give my brother and I rides to the BV County fair. We would always stop by One Stop Shop and get her signature Dr. Pepper. She had an infectious laugh and smile. Such an amazing lady! Makes me tear up, I don't have many found memories but she has the best of my memories. During softball I pitched Oren and Celia were the coaches and often reminded me to smile because that's when I did my best. Thank you Celia for the memories. You are a beautiful angel now. Please watch over us.*

Elizabeth Thomas Greene - March 03, 2025 at 05:33 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Celia Lea Knoffloch.*



March 01, 2025 at 08:43 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Celia Lea Knoffloch.*

March 01, 2025 at 08:43 PM

KF

“ I met Celia several years ago when stopping into her unique shop. She was a pistol and we hit it off right away. I always enjoyed stopping in to see her when in the area and phone call with her. She was the best of the best and she will be greatly missed. She was on the correct and sane side of things!

Ken Freudenburg - February 28, 2025 at 01:54 PM

MG

“ One of my finest memories is of Celia giving then elect Barack Obama one of her famous Celia hugs. My family members, without fail, always stop into the store to get one of Celia's love hugs whenever they are in town. We will deeply miss this little gal in the future. Love you Celia. The Griggs family.

Mike Griggs - February 27, 2025 at 03:25 PM

AS

“ Ann Minnick Schmeidler  
Friend  
02/25/2025

My heart is so sad! Celia was a cherished friend from grade school through graduation. I stood as her witness when she married Orren . So many wonderful memories with her. Love you, Celia.

SEND

Ann Minnick Schmeidler - February 26, 2025 at 08:15 PM

DD

“ Dave and Cheryl DeMan lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch



Dave and Cheryl DeMan - February 25, 2025 at 09:41 PM

RS

“ Roger & Pam Schossow lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch



Roger & Pam Schossow - February 25, 2025 at 08:59 PM

JK

“ *Jeff and Lory Krummen lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch*



Jeff and Lory Krummen - February 25, 2025 at 08:31 PM

MF

“ *Such a beautiful lady! Always enjoyed her when I went to the store loved visiting with her about antiques.*



Mary Farrell - February 25, 2025 at 07:14 PM

SS

“ *Prayers and hugs to all*



Shelly schossow - February 25, 2025 at 07:01 PM

DJ

“ *Deb Jesse lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch*



Deb Jesse - February 25, 2025 at 05:25 PM

AO

“ When I first met Celia, her fascinating shop was also filled with exotic parrots, her favorite being a giant cockatiel named Peaches. Celia had a knack for taking in lost souls as well; she would often give her last dollar to someone that came through in need.

Celia's antique shop was a treasure trove, offering unique items you wouldn't find anywhere else. There was a wicker wheelchair that seemed like it could have belonged to the rich and famous, and an astonishing four-poster bed that she adorned with velvet embroidered quilts. Everything was for sale! It was at Celia's shop that I purchased a 1950's café booth for my own shop.

What I remember most about Celia's shop were her unique display nooks of tables and chairs, china and pottery, jewelry, antique boxes and pictures. Janielle was Celia's right-hand woman and helped with everything in the shop.

In her younger days, Celia was a bit like a monkey—climbing and balancing on anything that would take her higher to create her displays. She had no sense of danger! You would often see her perched on top of a ladder or dresser as she called down a welcome, always designing her displays of treasures. It was a happening place, with friends, pickers, dogs, parrots, and customers galore always filling the shop with life.

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Annie O'Dell - February 25, 2025 at 02:57 PM

CB

“ Cindy Baldwin lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch



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Cindy Baldwin - February 25, 2025 at 02:31 PM

BB

“ Bob and Mary Beal lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch



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Bob and Mary Beal - February 25, 2025 at 01:33 PM

MP

“ I can feel the heartbreak in everyone's soul who knew her. Such a great mother, wife and friend. A positive influence on all. Keeping the shop open is a great way to continue her legacy and spirit! Call if you need help! Love you all. Sorry for your loss. But thank you for sharing her with us!

Mindy Jo Pyle - February 25, 2025 at 12:35 PM

SZ

“ One of my favorite ladies....sincere condolences to the family.



Sue and Larry Zwemke - February 25, 2025 at 12:25 PM

JE

“ Such a creative person!!! Loved her style!!! Many great junking memories!!!



Jane Else - February 25, 2025 at 12:08 PM

KM

“ Always a welcoming disposition as I would step into her creative shop. She gave away a rich dash of southern hospitality in her smile as well as within the questions she would always ask. Praying you hold a wealth of loving memories that will embrace you in your grief as well as in the manner in which you celebrate her life and journey.

Ken Meissner - February 25, 2025 at 12:05 PM

SO

“ I don't even know where to begin. Celia was full of inspiration, hope and positive vibes. It didn't matter when I communicated with her, she always brought me up! What a woman. Shari O'Bannon



Shari L. Willer O'Bannon - February 25, 2025 at 08:52 AM

JD

“ *John/Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch*



John/Connie Demers - February 25, 2025 at 08:33 AM

MS

“ *Our thoughts and prayers to Celia's family. We cherish our visits and discussions. Celia was fun loving and her smile and laugh were contagious. She was willing to share and so interested in you as a person. We will miss her.*

Marilyn and Randy Schmitt - February 25, 2025 at 07:35 AM

JO

“ *Jacquelyn Olson lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch*



Jacquelyn Olson - February 24, 2025 at 11:17 PM

LG

“ *She was a kind soul. She helped me when my Mom passed and put Mom's treasures in her shop. She was so cool! I'm so very sorry with her loss. Was just thinking of stopping to see her. I will miss her~~~~*

Lisa D Goodman - February 24, 2025 at 07:05 PM

PF

“ *Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Celia Knoffloch*



Peg Flynn - February 24, 2025 at 06:53 PM