



Elano Jane Gaffey

January 7, 1934 - December 7, 2022

Elano Jane Gaffey, age 88, of Alta, Iowa died December 7, 2022 at her home in Alta.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Alta, Iowa. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the service at the CHURCH. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Alta is in charge of the arrangements.

Elano "Lonnie" Jane Gaffey was born to Christian and Esther (Jensen) Kjolhede on January 7, 1934 in Newell, Iowa. Lonnie attended grade school at Rembrandt Public School and high school at Alta Community School, graduating in 1951. She was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Alta, Iowa.

Lonnie was united in marriage to James Louis Gaffey on June 10, 1951 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Alta, Iowa. To this union, nine children were born: Garand, Linda, Gardell, Koleen, Michael, Virgil, Nancy, Kristi, and Gregory.

Lonnie never allowed any dust to collect around her feet. If she wasn't dancing with Jim, something they both loved to do, she seemed to always have an iron in the fire. Over the course of her life, she did her part to provide for the family. She had an upholstery business, sold baked goods, made and

decorated wedding cakes, sold craft items she created, and did clothing alterations. Outside the home, she worked at the flower and craft shop in Alta, did a short stint at Wilson meat packing in Cherokee, and worked at Iowa Office Supply and then the Commercial Sign and Design shop in Storm Lake. Lonnie was active with the Alta Fire Department Firettes. Later in life, she served on the church council at Trinity Lutheran Church in Alta.

She and husband, Jim, loved spending time at their place located on the south shore of Swift Lake near Longville and Remer, Minnesota. When their daughter, Nancy, suffered a severe debilitating health event leaving her in a semi-comatose state, Lonnie and Jim made the decision to care for her in their home, which they did for 13 years until Nancy passed away in 2006. Their faith never wavered and were often heard thanking God for the beautiful day.

After Jim passed away in 2010, Lonnie continued to travel to Swift Lake and spend the spring, summer, and early fall there, enjoying the gift of God's beautiful creation. She enjoyed morning coffee out on the deck conversing with God and making sure the hummingbird feeders were always full. Lonnie's life was full and her passing leaves a void, but cherished memories bring a smile and warmth to our hearts.

Left to cherish Lonnie's memory are her children: Garand (Joleen) Gaffey of Remer, Minnesota; Linda (Kirby) Roberts of Storm Lake, Iowa; Koleen (Gary) Brown of Newell, Iowa; Michael Gaffey of Alta, Iowa; Virgil (Kelly) Gaffey of Storm Lake, Iowa; Kristi (Kurt) Miene of Lawton, Iowa; Greg (Tiffany) Gaffey of Ames, Iowa; grandchildren: Jeremi (Amy) Gaffey; Aaron (Irene) Gaffey; Jordan (Lyndsay) Gaffey; Adam (Anna) Gaffey; Heidi (Eric Lewis) Roberts; Andrea Roberts; Nicole (Robert) Nichols; Justin Gaffey; Taylor (Dan) Harvey; Makenzi Miene; Caleb Lichty; Connor Gaffey; Cohen Gaffey; step grandchildren: Joshua (Sonia) Brown; Travis (Darci) Brown; Tanya Lockwood;

Jennifer (Mike) Snedeker; Tony (Jessica) Kraft; 14 great grandchildren; 16 step great grandchildren; extended family and friends.

Lonnie is preceded in death by her parents: Christian and Esther (Jensen) Kjolhede; husband: James Gaffey; son: Gardell Gaffey; daughter: Nancy Gaffey; brothers: Clifford Kjolhede; Arnold (Marion) Kjolhede; Cyril (Bettie) Kjolhede; Ron (Glenda) Kjolhede; sisters: Agnes (Ivan) Lathrum; Doris (Dean) Orcutt; Lillian (Skelly) Rystad; and Ellen (Van) Parker.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church -- Alta
401 West 2nd Street
Alta, IA 51002

Memorial Service

JAN 21. 11:00 AM (CT)

Trinity Lutheran Church -- Alta
401 West 2nd Street
Alta, IA 51002

Tribute Wall

PS

“ *VERY SORRY TO HEAR OF ELANO'S DEATH. I WAS A BRIDESMAID AT HER WEDDING TO JIM G.FOND MEMORIES OF VISTING HER ON THE FARM. I AM HER COUSIN PATTY JENSEN FORMERY OF SAC CITY IOWA.. I NOW LIVE IN BEAVERTON OREGON.*

PATRICIA JENSEN SMITH - July 05, 2023 at 06:34 PM

FH

“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - January 20, 2023 at 04:24 PM



“ *Delightful Dieffenbachia was purchased for the family of Elano Jane Gaffey.*



January 19, 2023 at 06:44 PM

PL

“ *Lonnie did a lot of sewing for my family over the years and she was the most selfless person and we had so many great visits ! Many Prayers , Much ❤️ & Angel Hugs To All Her Family . 🙏❤️*



Patti Lane - January 01, 2023 at 10:55 PM

MG

“ *With many fond memories of Elano, we send our sympathy & prayers to the family.*

Mike & Bonnie Goebel



Mike & Bonnie Goebel - December 17, 2022 at 10:16 AM

DB

“ *Dick Bassett lit a candle in memory of Elano Gaffey*



Dick Bassett - December 15, 2022 at 11:51 PM

PE

“ *She was such a sweet lady... always smiling... never placed herself “ first “ ... sorry for all who survive her*

PegiCavanaugh - December 15, 2022 at 11:11 PM

LS

“ Lynn Snyder lit a candle in memory of Elano Gaffey



Lynn M Snyder - December 14, 2022 at 10:50 AM

CG

“ Candy Mark Galbraith lit a candle in memory of Elano Gaffey



Candy & Mark Galbraith - December 12, 2022 at 08:18 PM

BJ

“ Always enjoyed the time we shared at Iowa Office Supply. Lonnie was a very special lady! 🙏🙏🙏

Brett Johnston

Brett Johnston - December 12, 2022 at 12:30 PM

NL

“ Nancy Ledoux sent a virtual gift in memory of Elano Gaffey



Nancy Ledoux - December 10, 2022 at 10:29 AM

SS

“ Steven Colleen Swanson lit a candle in memory of Elano Gaffey



Steven and Colleen Swanson - December 10, 2022 at 09:15 AM

PH

“ Pam Henderson lit a candle in memory of Elano Gaffey



Pam Henderson - December 09, 2022 at 08:53 PM

JC

“ Jeff/Jean Chindlund lit a candle in memory of Elano Gaffey



Jeff/Jean Chindlund - December 08, 2022 at 05:13 PM