



Nicki McKenna

January 5, 1949 - November 30, 2014

Nicki McKenna, age 65, of Storm Lake, Iowa died Sunday, November 30, 2014 at her home in Storm Lake.

Funeral services will be held Friday, December 5, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. Burial will be in the Storm Lake Cemetery. Visitation will take place Thursday, December 4, 2014 from 3-8:00 p.m. with a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. all at the Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake where the family will be present the entire time. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made towards a bench at East Playground or a scholarship fund for Storm Lake High School kids who study to become Special Ed Teachers or therapists who work with students with disabilities. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Nickala "Nicki" Jo Vilas born January 5, 1949 in Storm Lake, Iowa the daughter of Wilbert and Joan (Mummert) Vilas.

Growing up, she attended school in Storm Lake graduating from Storm Lake High School in May 1967. Following high school graduation, she attended Stewart's School of Cosmetology in Sioux City finishing in June of 1968.

After getting her license, she was hired by Stewarts to work in their shop in

Omaha, Nebraska.

She met her future husband, Edward McKenna, at a club called Bill Bailey's in the Benson area of Omaha in March 1969. She and Ed became engaged in May of 1969 and married on September 5, 1969 in Storm Lake. She was raised Methodist, but shortly after their marriage, Nicki converted to Catholicism.

She and her family lived in Omaha, Nebraska and Manhattan, Kansas while Ed served in the army at Ft. Riley, Kansas, before he returned to Omaha in 1973. In October of 1977, they moved back to Storm Lake when Ed bought Ireland Drug and to raise their children in their small hometown. From this union, came four children: Shawna, Brandon, Troy and Ryan.

Nicki was a member of Beta Sigma Phi sorority in Storm Lake. She served on the St. Mary's CCD board, the Storm Lake Sports Boosters and the Storm Lake Music Boosters. She also was a scout leader for a few years. In addition, Nicki served as the CHO (Chief Hospitality Officer) for the Ed's Apothecary men's softball league as well as the Storm Lake Whitecaps traveling baseball team. Nicki was an avid Creighton BlueJay fan as many knew, making almost 100% of their home ball games even while battling ALS. She also enjoyed doing cross stitch, sewing, knitting baby things for family and friends, painting, quilting and scrap booking for her family as well as had a love for reading and enjoyed that until the end.

After her children left home, she went back to work. She became a barista for Abner Bell's Coffeehouse and became manager, a position she held for a few years before going to work for the Storm Lake School District as a Special Ed IA, a job she thoroughly enjoyed. She worked for about 10 years at that job before she had to retire, due to her health issues, in May of 2012. She was diagnosed with ALS on May 16, 2013.

Her greatest pleasure came when following her children in sports and various other activities they were involved in. She was proudest of the achievements her children and grandchildren acquired. She was quick to show pictures of her grandchildren at their latest recital, their art project, baseball game or karate class.

She and Ed took many trips around their anniversary. Perhaps the one they enjoyed the most was their trip to the McKenna ancestral home of Ireland in 2012. Ed was able to attend the Notre Dame vs Navy football game in Dublin. They were able to see many beautiful sights and connect with some McKenna family members in the family town of Buncrana, County Donegal. It was a wonderful way to celebrate 43 years of marriage. Their wish was to return to Ireland with their children and spouses for their 50th.

Those left to cherish her memory include her husband, Edward J. McKenna of Storm Lake, Iowa; children: Shawna (Steven) Clifford of Bluffton, South Carolina; Brandon (Rachel) McKenna of Omaha, Nebraska; Troy (Erica) McKenna of North Ridgeville, Ohio; and Ryan McKenna and Ana Colon of West Palm Beach, Florida; grandchildren: Hailey Marie Fuss, Alyssa Mya McKenna, Bridget Rae Clifford, Patrick Clay Clifford, Makayla Joan McKenna, Cailin Mae Clifford, and Emma Morgan McKenna; her father, Willie Vilas and Marlene Witt; sister, Mikka Belson of Holstein, Iowa; brother, Doug Vilas of Storm Lake, Iowa; two brothers-in-law and a sister-in-law: Terry McCormick of Jacksonville, Florida; Jon and Patti McKenna of Storm Lake, Iowa; numerous nieces and nephews; aunt, Arlene Vilas. She also served as a mother to her nieces and nephews and all of her children's family and friends. A role that brought her great joy and honor!

Nicki was preceded in death by her grandparents: Oliver and Fay (Treloar) Vilas; Troy and Grace (Huff) Mummert; her mother, Joan (Mummert) Vilas;

mother-in-law and father-in-law: Alberta and Lawrence McKenna; sister-in-law, Susanna "Sanna" McCormick; nephew, Brian McCormick; aunts and uncles: Billie and Doris Mummert; Dale and Marian Mummert; and Dwain Vilas; cousins: Mike Mummert and Cheryl Mummert Schultz.

Her motto during her fight with ALS was: "I do what I can, the best that I can, day after day! That's all I can do!" She never gave up the fight!

Cemetery Details

Storm Lake Cemetery

Storm Lake, IA 50588

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 4. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Vigil Service

DEC 4. 7:00 PM (CT)

Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - Storm Lake
1615 W Milwaukee Ave,
Storm Lake, IA 50588
(712) 732-1911
jensenfuneralhomes@gmail.com
<https://www.fratzkejensen.com>

Service

DEC 5. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Catholic Church -- Storm Lake
320 Seneca Street
Storm Lake, IA

Interment

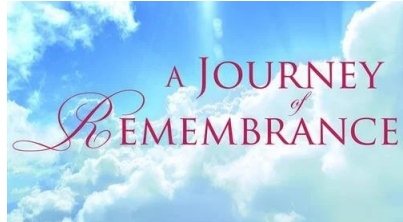
DEC 5 (CT)

Storm Lake Cemetery
Storm Lake, IA 50588

Tribute Wall



“ *Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Nicki McKenna*



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - December 02, 2014 at 04:14 PM



What a beautiful tribute to a beautiful woman inside and out... that we feel so blessed to have had the privilege to know. Forever our hearts. Love, Sam & Eric xoox

Shirley-Anne Reul - December 03, 2014 at 06:10 AM

SA

A life filled with love and surrounded by a loving husband, children, grandchildren & friends...what an amazing tribute to an amazing Lady. Sheri & Mike Agnew

Sheri Agnew - December 03, 2014 at 06:27 AM

NB

Beautiful tribute. She is smiling!

Nancy Bradley - December 03, 2014 at 09:34 AM

RV

Such a beautiful tribute to a wonderful lady! Nicki, what a difference you made! God bless you and your family! With love and heartfelt sympathy-Rhonda Vredenburg

Rhonda Vredenburg - December 04, 2014 at 12:02 AM

SH

“ in 1949 we played were born. we were play mates in school and Greenwood Drive. I stayed at her house when my mother passed in November 1959. My father and I moved to Cedar Rapids. My father is Arthur N. Hough and I am Stephen Hough living in California. Sorry to hear she passed.

STEPHEN B HOUGH - July 15, 2025 at 11:45 PM

DR

“ I just learned of Nicki's passing. I am truly sorry for your loss. Please accept my condolences and may our prayers help comfort you and may Nicki rest in peace in Heaven



Dave Rachuy - February 20, 2015 at 02:50 PM

TS

“ Tony Statz lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna



Tony Statz - December 05, 2014 at 05:05 AM

JW

“ Jeri Wiedemer purchased the Fields of Europe for the family of Nicki McKenna.



Jeri Wiedemer - December 04, 2014 at 07:02 PM

FH

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Homes - December 04, 2014 at 11:43 AM

LB

“ Lovingly, Jeff and Toni Barber purchased the Healing Tears - Lavender and White for the family of Nicki McKenna.



Lovingly, Jeff and Toni Barber - December 04, 2014 at 11:26 AM



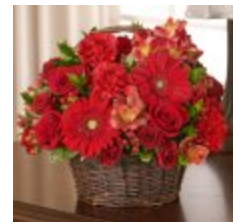
“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Nicki McKenna.



December 04, 2014 at 09:51 AM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All Red was purchased for the family of Nicki McKenna.



December 03, 2014 at 09:48 AM



“ Shirley-Anne Reul lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna



Shirley-Anne Reul - December 03, 2014 at 06:10 AM

NB

“ Nick & Jami Brown lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna



Nick & Jami Brown - December 02, 2014 at 01:13 PM

SA

“ Her Soul has soared with the Angels to her home in Heaven and she is released of the earthly battle. Now dancing with the Angels, she watching over all those that she loves. She will always be with you, and is a close as your whisper to her. Good Bless the Vilas & McKenna Families. Our Love & Condolences, and most of all our prayers ~ Sheri & Mike Agnew



Sheri Agnew - December 02, 2014 at 11:15 AM

MM

“ Mark M. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Nicki McKenna.



Mark M. - December 02, 2014 at 11:14 AM

MM

“ Mark Mather lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna



Mark Mather - December 02, 2014 at 09:54 AM

LS

“ Lisa Swingholm sent a virtual gift in memory of Nicki McKenna



Lisa Swingholm - December 02, 2014 at 01:49 AM

GR

“ Grace lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna



Grace - December 02, 2014 at 01:44 AM

NB

“ *Nancy Bradley lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna*



Nancy Bradley - December 01, 2014 at 10:00 PM

DR

“ *Denny And Cynthia Robinson lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna*



Denny and Cynthia Robinson - December 01, 2014 at 09:56 PM

JK

“ *Jan Gustafson Klahs lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna*



Jan Gustafson Klahs - December 01, 2014 at 08:52 PM

MR

“ *Melissa Humphrey Read lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna*



Melissa Humphrey Read - December 01, 2014 at 08:42 PM

MR

Thinking of your entire family with warmth, support and caring. As another family dealing with ALS, we share your loss. It was an honor to meet Nicki at support group in Des Moines. Ken & Melissa Read

Melissa Humphrey Read - December 01, 2014 at 08:45 PM

SM

Thinking of Nicki' s family. May God comfort you all at this sorrowful time. May Nicki rest in peace and the Peperual Light shine upon you. Love and prayers to Ed and their children. Shirley Morgan

Shirley Morgan - December 03, 2014 at 07:41 AM

AW

“ Ed & Family -

Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Nicki will now and forever have the best seats for all of the Creighton games! May your memories and love get you through your dark days.

Abby (Goettsch) Walleck and Family

Abby Walleck - December 01, 2014 at 07:28 PM

DJ

“ Deb Jesse lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna



Deb Jesse - December 01, 2014 at 02:45 PM

EM

“ Thinking of you, Ed, and your family. Our prayers and thoughts are with you at the difficult time. Ed and Marla Maier

Edward L Maier - December 01, 2014 at 12:56 PM

TW

“ Terry Witkowski lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna



Terry Witkowski - December 01, 2014 at 12:15 PM

TW

“ I'm so sorry to hear of your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Keep the good memories close to your heart and she will always be with you, too.

Terry Witkowski - December 01, 2014 at 12:14 PM

LJ

“ Lloyd K. Jessen lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna



Lloyd K. Jessen - December 01, 2014 at 11:58 AM

JD

“ John And Connie Demers lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna



John and Connie Demers - December 01, 2014 at 08:03 AM

TC

“ *Tim&Pegi Cavanaugh lit a candle in memory of Nicki McKenna*



Tim&Pegi Cavanaugh - December 01, 2014 at 07:29 AM