



## Nicole Leah Summerlin

October 30, 1979 - May 4, 2025

Nicole Leah Summerlin, age 45, of Gilbert, Arizona died May 4, 2025 at her residence.

Memorial Mass will take place Tuesday, May 20, 2025 at 10:30 a.m. at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Storm Lake. Private Family Burial will be in the St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the CHURCH. In lieu of flowers, memorials will be determined and distributed by the family. The Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home in Storm Lake is in charge of the arrangements.

Nicole, daughter of Carolyn Schmitt was born October 30, 1979 in East Point, Georgia. At the age of three, Nicole and her family moved to Storm Lake, Iowa where she attended school at St. Mary's Catholic School. Following Nicole's high school graduation in 1998, she went on to attend Iowa State University. She later graduated with a doctorate degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Iowa. Nicole moved to Arizona for a rotation and decided to make it her home. She worked for Ortho Arizona in Phoenix where she had a positive impact on many lives and her interactions with patients were full of love and compassion.

Animals were the center of Nicole's world, and her pets were everything to her. She found joy in walking dogs and caring for the animals at Arizona

Animal Welfare League. Nicole will be remembered for her sense of humor and fun personality. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Left to cherish Nicole's memory include her mother: Carolyn Schmitt of Storm Lake, Iowa; grandparents: Donald and Betty Schmitt of Storm Lake, Iowa; brother: Jeremy (Tanya) Summerlin and their children, Tucker and Ava of West Virginia; aunts and uncles: Ron and Michelle Watkins of Illinois; Steve and Sharon Schmitt of Virginia; Jim and Lynne Thompson of Illinois; Gary and Lisa Schmitt of North Carolina; Brian and Joni Gosch of Minnesota; numerous cousins, extended family, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents: Dave and Aurelia Watkins; cousins: Elizabeth and Nicholas Gosch; Dr. Kelli Sekulovich.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery

1238 600th St.  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 20. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

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

## Memorial Mass

MAY 20. 10:30 AM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

HE

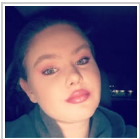
“ Nicole was my physical therapist in Phoenix for a shoulder injury in 2024. I recently re-injured it and went to schedule PT with her but was shocked to learn of her passing. I am so sad but have memories of a vibrant, positive and healing soul who entered my life just when I needed her most. We talked of our mutual love of animals and she made me laugh with her wonderful sense of humor. She had a beautiful heart and she was a God given angel in my life.

heidi - April 03 at 05:42 PM

FM

“ While Nicole and I never met in person, I admired her deeply. Her love and dedication to animals was inspiring. So much time spent caring for animals in need... I always enjoyed seeing her posts on IG. I've wondered where she went over the past year and am heartbroken to discover that she has passed. I just know that Nicole was welcomed to Heaven by so many animals, including my Fred. Prayers to Nicole's family and friends.

Fred's Mom - March 27 at 08:54 AM



“ I had the absolute privilege of taking care of Nicole's babies when she would go out of town. Nicole was such a kind and caring person and was so loved by everyone that knew her. She has such a wonderful heart and I will miss her dearly.

Montanna Cataleya - June 07, 2025 at 01:51 PM

SA

“ *Lovely Nicole , I had the great honor of walking her pups for the last 4 years ❤️. Nicole was kind and thoughtful always ,she was very supportive during my fight with cancer last year ❤️. Nicole's love of her pets was beautiful. I'm thankful for the opportunity to have known her. 🙏*



Sandi - May 21, 2025 at 07:24 PM

SJ

“ *I met Nicole when she was saving a colony of cats, the time she rescued Purdy. Although we never hung out, she fast became one of my favorite humans. We communicated through social media, and I wish so much that I had known she was hurting. Nicole, I hope you know how very much you meant to me and I can only imagine how many countless others. Your friends and coworkers who adopted Tater, Toola, Savvy, Rosie, and Mojo are angels on Earth.*

Sally J - May 21, 2025 at 03:39 PM



“ *Jen Launderville lit a candle in memory of Nicole Summerlin*



Jen Launderville - May 21, 2025 at 02:10 PM



“ I just found out and am heart broken for your loss and this world’s loss. Nicole was my roommate at ISU once upon a time and while we didn’t see each other, loved seeing here life on Facebook and faithfully getting a birthday message each year. I will truly miss that . I pray for all who will miss her.

Nikki Van den Heever - May 20, 2025 at 09:52 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Nicole Leah Summerlin.



May 19, 2025 at 08:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nicole Leah Summerlin.

May 19, 2025 at 08:37 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Fratzke & Jensen Funeral Home - May 19, 2025 at 05:37 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Nicole Leah Summerlin.*



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May 19, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nicole Leah Summerlin.

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May 19, 2025 at 03:48 PM



“ *Kay Marvin lit a candle in memory of Nicole Summerlin*



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**Kay Marvin** - May 18, 2025 at 05:22 PM



“ *Thinking of YOU & Family GOD BLESS  
RUSS & DIANE MEYER*



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**diane meyer** - May 18, 2025 at 09:41 AM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Nicole Leah Summerlin.*



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May 17, 2025 at 01:08 PM



“ *Sandy Robinson lit a candle in memory of Nicole Summerlin*



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**Sandy Robinson** - May 17, 2025 at 06:11 AM



“ *I was lucky to know Nicole through our school years, and I'll always remember her kindness and the light she brought into every room. She had such a warm spirit and a beautiful smile that made people feel welcome and seen. My heart goes out to Carolyn, Jeremy and family. I can only imagine the depth of your sorrow. Please know that Nicole touched many lives, and she'll never be forgotten. Wishing you comfort, peace, and strength during this incredibly difficult time. May she rest in peace.*

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**Jaden Peck** - May 16, 2025 at 08:08 PM

MC

“ *There are never the right words to say when someone you love is gone, especially one of your children. Just know that you are in our prayers. Our sympathy to you, Carolyn and to Jeremy.*  
*Kevin & Julie McKinney*



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**McKinney** - May 14, 2025 at 03:39 PM

SA

“ *I was a PT patient of Nicoles. She is well known in the Ortho community for being a very good physical therapist, I can attest to that. She was always happy to help me with questions as well as my treatments. I was very sad to hear that she passed. She will be missed.*

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**Sarah** - May 13, 2025 at 12:50 PM

BB

“ *Bob Baschke lit a candle in memory of Nicole Summerlin*



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**Bob Baschke** - May 13, 2025 at 12:39 PM

JW

“ Nicole helped me adopt a senior pomeranian (9 years ago) and we became friends meeting up at dog rescue events. This is a shame. Nicole was a beautiful, selfless, and caring for all animals person that we need more of in this world. I'm so sorry for whatever she was going through. I wish she knew how cherished she was. Her fur babies were her world. She will be missed so much especially the rescue dogs she helped by loving them over lunch. The world lost a wonderful person I'm so sad and will miss her.

Jeni Hurm Waelti - May 12, 2025 at 05:08 PM

SB

I along with so many other acquaintances and patients of Nicole.. Quite frankly are devastated by this news.. As a former patient at Ortho.. Nicole was an incredible therapist.. so very knowledgeable kind and inspirationally motivating.. She was beautiful and I for one will miss her delicate balance of work.. life and healing.. I will never forget you!! God bless your soul and I hope flights of angels sang you to your rest into the arms of the Lord!.....RIP

Sam Barcelona - May 14, 2025 at 05:54 PM

PF

“ Peg Flynn lit a candle in memory of Nicole Summerlin



Peg Flynn - May 12, 2025 at 01:39 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nicole Leah Summerlin.

May 12, 2025 at 01:55 AM

MS

“ Our sympathies to you and your family.  
Maureen, Brad & Christopher



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**Maureen Strader** - May 10, 2025 at 09:17 PM

MT

“ Prayers and love to you, Carolyn and Jeremy. Nicole rests in the  
arms of Jesus now.

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**Mary Timko** - May 10, 2025 at 08:35 AM

JH

“ Nicole was one of my first mentors out of PTA school. We worked  
weekends together at the nursing home. She quickly became my  
first friend in AZ and we shared so many fun memories together.  
She was one of my closest friends. She was so witty and smart and  
fun. She was so kind and loving especially to animals and kids. We  
had been through so much during our 22 year friendship and I will  
miss her so so much. Sending so much love and prayers to her  
family. In love,  
Jessica

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**Jessica Hardaway** - May 09, 2025 at 01:40 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the  
family of Nicole Leah Summerlin.



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May 08, 2025 at 06:49 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Nicole Leah Summerlin.

May 08, 2025 at 06:49 PM



“ Nicole was the reason I found my confidence again after my Achilles injury. We stayed in touch even after our sessions ended. She once told me I was her best Achilles repair — a compliment that meant the world to me. Nicole was kind and always went above and beyond for her patients. I am deeply sorry for your loss. I'm sending all my strength to her family, friends, fellow patients, coworkers, and her beloved pets.

Sarah Anderson

Sarah Anderson - May 08, 2025 at 06:20 PM



Nicole was my therapist after 3 shoulder, elbow and hamstring surgeries. Her beautiful and sincere smile always helped me through our sessions. We shared the love of animals (I volunteer with wildlife). She would call me when there was an injured bird to be rescued. I am so sorry for your loss. I'm sending you and everyone who knew her the strength and time to move through the process.

Kathy F Edwards - May 10, 2025 at 06:38 PM



“ So very sorry for your loss she was a beautiful human as I recall back in the day. Thinking of you all. Jess (Sebben) Hudspeth

Jess Hudspeth - May 08, 2025 at 05:19 PM

SK

“ *Nicole was in my second grade class. She was a lovely, bright, sweet girl...a joy each and every day. Prayers to those who loved her. May she rest in peace.*

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**shalley Kappenman** - May 08, 2025 at 02:47 PM

BA

“ *Such a beautiful life gone way too soon. Sending many prayers and hugs to you, Carolyn, and your family.*

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**Barb Anderson** - May 08, 2025 at 12:36 PM