



## Joyce M. Nielsen

April 15, 1933 - April 26, 2025

Joyce M. Nielsen peacefully left this earthly realm on April 26, 2025, at her home, surrounded by loved ones.

She was born in Aberdeen, South Dakota on August 15, 1933, to Doug and Merle Cocking. She grew up in Hampton, Iowa with her brother Loren and graduated with a BS in English from the University of Iowa. She married Theodore L. Nielsen in 1955. While starting a family, they moved from state to state, including a stint in Massachusetts, where she taught middle school. 1974 brought them to Hope College in Holland, Michigan, where Joyce worked at the Van Wylen Library for 25 years. She volunteered for many years at the Holland Museum, a place she loved. She lived at Freedom Village and was involved with the library and other committees and was a regular scrabble player.

Joyce loved to travel and learn new things and was a voracious reader. She enjoyed good food and wine, art, history, Shakespeare, and on-line word games. Dogs, especially basset hounds, were consistent companions, usually having two at a time.

Joyce was an easy-going person who didn't fuss or worry. She was adaptable, determined, pragmatic, and sweet, and had a lovely smile.

She will be deeply missed by her daughter Elizabeth (James) DeWilde, sister-in-law Jean Lehman, daughter-in-law Janice Nielsen, and granddaughter Crystal Nielsen.

She was predeceased by her husband, Theodore L. Nielsen; son, Dale P. Nielsen; and brother, Loren Cocking.

A visitation/celebration of Joyce's life will be held in the auditorium at Freedom Village 145 Columbia Ave. on Monday May 12, 1:00-3:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions in Joyce's honor may be given to Hospice of Holland at <https://www.hollandhospice.org/> or by mail to 270 Hoover Blvd., Holland, MI 49423 or the Holland Museum at <https://hollandmuseum.org/support/> or by mail to 31 W. 10th St., Holland, MI 49423.

[www.langelandsterenberg.com](http://www.langelandsterenberg.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

MAY 12. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Freedom Village Auditorium  
145 Columbia Ave.  
Holland, MI 49423

# Tribute Wall

BD

“ *Thanksgiving dinner planning parties were an annual tradition which I loved. Ted & Joyce introduced me to wine and making dinner a celebration. I will always remember them with love.* ”

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**Brian DeRoos** - May 12, 2025 at 10:29 AM