



## Colleen Rae Gruntorad

November 5, 1947 - May 24, 2021

Deweese, NE., resident Colleen Rae (Nowka) Gruntorad, 73, was called by our Heavenly Father to be his angel on Monday, May 24, 2021, at the Nebraska Heart Hospital in Lincoln, NE.

A Rosary will be prayed at 7:00 p.m., Thursday, May 27, 2021, at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Deweese, NE. Mass of Christian Burial will be conducted at 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 28, 2021, at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Deweese, NE., with Father Corey Harrison officiating. Interment will follow the service at St. Martin's (Loucky) Cemetery near Deweese, NE. Visitation will be one hour prior to the Rosary and one hour prior to the Mass.

Memorial Contributions may be directed to the family to be designated later.

Colleen (Nowka) Gruntorad was born November 5, 1947, in Hastings, NE., to Raymond and Fern (Lee) Nowka.

She received her high school diploma from Harvard High School in Harvard, NE. She began her nursing career in the 1960s as a nurse's aide in the skilled care unit of Perkins Pavilion at the Good Samaritan Village in Hastings, NE., for four summers and on the weekends while she was in high school. She attended Kearney School of Practical Nursing after being encouraged by her

supervisor at the Village to receive her Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) diploma. She married Adrian Gruntorad on April 27, 1968, in Harvard, NE. She worked in hospitals and doctor's offices in Hastings, Ainsworth, and Grand Island after receiving her LPN diploma. After moving to Deweese, NE., she returned in 1986 to Good Samaritan Village in Hastings in the Perkins Pavilion for 26 years before retiring with 47 years of service in nursing.

Colleen was named the 1990 Employee of the Year for the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in her local sector in April 1990. This honor was bestowed to her by her fellow colleagues due to her commitment to the mission, representation in the community, respect earned from fellow staff and residents, and exemplification of Christian values and commitment. From this award, she was then put in the running in June 1990 for the national competition at the Good Samaritan headquarters in Sioux Falls, SD., and won the 1990 Good Samaritan Staff Member of the Year. Good Samaritan had over 300 facilities in 25 states at the time.

She was a member of Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church in Deweese, NE. Her hobbies included gardening, fishing, being outside, helping others, and working with her husband.

Colleen is survived by her husband, Adrian Gruntorad of Deweese, NE; her daughter and son-in-law, Sheri and Phillip Fuchs of Oxford, NE; her two grandchildren, Daniel Fuchs of Oxford, NE; and Matraisha Fuchs, of Indianapolis, IN; her sister, Jolene Johnson, of Hastings, NE; her brother and sister-in-law, Ed and Diane Nowka, of Grand Island, NE; and a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her in-laws, Rudolph and Hellen Gruntorad.



# Cemetery Details

## St. Martin's (Loucky) Cemetery

525 Road 302  
Deweese, NE 68934

# Previous Events

## Rosary

MAY 27. 7:00 PM (CT)

Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church  
506 Liberty  
Deweese, NE 68934

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAY 28. 10:30 AM (CT)

Our Lady Of Assumption Catholic Church  
506 Liberty  
Deweese, NE 68934

# Tribute Wall



“ 17 files added to the album Flowers



Sutton Memorial Chapel and McLaughlin Funeral Chapel - May 28, 2021 at 02:14 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Colleen Rae Gruntorad.



May 27, 2021 at 01:21 PM



“ I had the privilege of knowing Colleen toward the end of her career at Perkins. She was a hard-working, dedicated and most importantly a compassionate nurse. A nurse who was also influential to so many. After Colleen's retirement, I was always excited when I ran into her at Russ's. So sad to hear of her passing. Prayers to her family for comfort and peace during this time of grief.

Brooke - May 26, 2021 at 06:13 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Colleen Rae Gruntorad.*



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May 26, 2021 at 03:41 PM



“ *Diane Nowka purchased the Fairest of All for the family of Colleen Rae Gruntorad.*



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**Diane Nowka** - May 25, 2021 at 08:07 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Colleen Rae Gruntorad.*



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May 25, 2021 at 07:18 PM



“ *Colleen was a member of my 1966 Harvard class. She was the sweetest and kindness person. Never heard her complain about anything. Always remember her as being the quiet person. My sympathy to her husband, children, and family. Rest in peace Colleen.*

*Bonnie Kloke Jolly*

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**Bonnie Jolly** - May 25, 2021 at 05:47 PM

MT

“ So very sorry to hear about Colleen. I went to school with Colleen. She was one of the kindest people in our class. I always loved her bubbly laugh. When I still lived in Hastings, I would quite often run into her at Walmart. We always had a nice conversation. Although we grew apart over the years, the class of '66 always remained friends. Whenever we got together, it was like we'd never been apart. You will truly be missed. I'll see you again someday. May your family be comforted knowing you are with our Heavenly Savior. Love and blessings, Meda Ponder Taubenheim

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**Meda Ponder Taubenheim** - May 25, 2021 at 03:59 PM

CH

Sorry for your loss..I always remembered her because we have the same first name..and her brother Ed was in my class..my thoughts and prayers are with the whole family..GodBless..Colleene Hiatt Hampton

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**Colleene Hiatt Hampton** - May 25, 2021 at 04:25 PM

JT

I worked with Colleen at Dr Rutt's office in Hastings. She was such a sweet and caring person.

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**Joann Tumbleson** - May 26, 2021 at 03:58 PM