



Colletta LaVonn Nelson

July 17, 1930 - September 2, 2024

Colletta LaVonn (Myers) Nelson, 94 of Chanute, Kansas passed away at her home on Monday, September 2, 2024.

Colletta was born on July 17, 1930 to Roy and Dutch (Fowler) Myers in Iola, Kansas. After graduating high school from Elsmore in 1948, Colletta embarked on her education and nursing journey. She graduated from the Research Hospital School of Nursing in 1951, she then earned her Bachelors in Health Education from Ottawa University in 1979. She then graduated with her Masters in Community College Teaching in 1981 from Pittsburg State University, and then graduated with her Bachelors of Nursing from Pittsburg State University in 1987. Colletta worked as a nurse at many different hospitals and schools in the area. She was an instructor at Neosho County Community College from 1979 to 1995 when she retired.

Colletta was very active in the community, she was a member of the American Nurse's Association, the Kansas State Nurse's Association, District 21, Sigma Theta Tau, the Kansas Organization for the Advancement of Associate Degree Nurses, the Research School of Nursing Alumni, the Pittsburg State University Alumni Association, the Neosho County Community College Education Association, Transportation Committee, Nursing Faculty Committee, and the President's Advisory Committee. She was also an American Red Cross CPR instructor, a Vestry member of the Grace Episcopal Church, and volunteered at the local health fairs, both Neosho and Allen county.

During her free time Colletta loved to bake, especially bread, travel, and volunteer at Cherry Street. She also loved to dress up and perform as Tweety the clown with Yak Yak. With all that Colletta had accomplished in her life many did not know but she was also a trained astronaut.

Colletta is preceded in death by her parents, Roy and Dutch Myers, son, James Nelson, and grandson, Michael Grayson.

Her memory will carry on with her children, Cathy Grayson, and Richard Nelson, brother, Roy Duke Myers, grandchildren, Cassie, Jonna, Amanda, and Christie, 10 great grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Colletta's dedication to nursing and nursing education will carry on, following her wishes, her body was donated to the Kansas Body Willed Program to help further the education of future healthcare providers. Arrangements have been entrusted to Countryside Funeral Home.

Tribute Wall

KB

“ Colletta Nelson was one of my nursing instructor who definitely made me the nurse I am today. She was strict, but fair. If you wore your hair up, you better have Bobby pins to put up the stragglers! She was such an inspiration to my career, and her legacy will go on through all those that she taught. Amazing nurse.

kim buttler - September 09, 2024 at 07:19 PM

CB

“ Collette was a family friend who became my nursing instructor. Linda Johnson and I became successful nurses due to her guidance and patience and worked at University of Texas Medical Center in Galveston Texas. Collette did not miss anything. My freind and I were suppose to be studying for a test and decided to make jumbo Christmas decorations, the next day she commented on this with a grin. A true mentor that helped me have a future for 20 years in various fields of nursing. I will always be thankful I was lucky to have her in my life.
Candy Buchleitner

Candy Buchleitner - September 08, 2024 at 09:59 AM

MC

“ I first met Colletta in her first short retirement when she took a book discussion class I was teaching. She had been to places in our books and added interesting background details. Later I got to be with her at Grace Episcopal Church. Anything she did was done well and with a smile and a deep caring for others. I am so blessed that our paths in life crossed. Meredith Collins

Meredith Collins - September 06, 2024 at 04:09 PM

AH

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss!! She was my instructor in nursing school and I retired in Jan. What a great start I had and my career of 33 years nursing was not near as elaborate as Colletta's. She was a great lady and I'm glad she became a nurse and not an astronaut!!! Love, peace, and prayers for a life very fully lived!!! RIP.
Ann Arnold Henry

Ann Arnold Henry - September 05, 2024 at 10:09 AM

 Myrna
Castle

“ Coletta was one of my instructors at NCCC . She was tough but I learned so much from her. Rest in piece Coletta.

Myrna Castle - September 04, 2024 at 06:40 AM

LL

“ A very admired Nurse and Nurse educator. She was a very strict on sterile procedure. She had such a sweet sense of humor and one of my favorite teachers. Bless her beautiful servant heart. Love,
Lucinda Carlson Lonergan

Lucinda Lonergan - September 03, 2024 at 09:19 PM