



## Martha "Alice" Nelson

March 27, 1927 - February 22, 2024

Martha "Alice" Nelson, age 96 of Mattoon, IL passed away on Thursday, February 22, 2024, at Mattoon Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. A funeral service in her honor will be held at 10: 00 AM, Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at First United Methodist Church, 1601 Charleston Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938; Reverend Todd Krost and Reverend Ron Dickinson will officiate. A committal service will immediately follow in Rest Haven Memorial Gardens in Mattoon, IL. A visitation will be held Tuesday evening, February 27, 2024, from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM at Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home, 1200 Wabash Avenue, Mattoon, IL 61938.

Alice was born on March 27, 1927, in Mattoon, IL to the late Horace E. and Mary (Williams) Champion. She married Albert "Leo" Nelson on March 10, 1946 in the house she grew up in. Leo passed away on October 7, 1995. She is survived by three children, Bonnie Paszkiewicz of Highland, IL, Gregory "Nic" Nelson and wife Kathleen of Normal, IL Bill Nelson and wife Connie of Bethany, IL; fourteen grandchildren; thirty-one great-grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; one brother, David Champion of Gays, IL. She is preceded by one son, Darwyn Nelson; one brother, Richard Champion; one son-in-law, Larry Paszkiewicz; and one daughter-in-law, Ila Nelson. Alice was employed at JC Penny's in Mattoon, IL as a seamstress for forty years before her retirement. She later worked as a hostess at Comfort Suites in Mattoon, IL. She was a devout and active member of First United Methodist Church and belonged to the Women's Society of First Methodist Church. She

was a member of Moultrie County Home and Community Education and Governor Edward Coles-Sally Lincoln Daughter of American Revolution Mattoon Chapter. Alice was also an election judge for over sixty years. As a 4-H leader for thirty years, Alice attended countless Illinois State Fairs where she became known as “The Candy Lady” and won numerous awards for sweets. This was a hobby she shared with her family and friends and loved to give others her treats.

Alice had ties to Lake Land Community College in Mattoon, IL. She housed many students from the John Deere Program and Women’s Softball team. She endearingly coined the team “grandma” since she made many delicious dinners and treasured relationships over the years.

Alice truly touched the lives of many people. Her vivacious personality, selfless acts of kindness, and friendly smiles will be lovingly remembered.

Memorials in her honor may be made to Lake Land College Foundation/John Deere Tech Program, 5001 Lake Land Boulevard, Mattoon, IL 61938.

Please visit [www.mitchell-jerdan.com](http://www.mitchell-jerdan.com) or [www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome](http://www.facebook.com/mitchelljerdanfuneralhome) to light a virtual candle in her honor or share a memory with the family.

# Cemetery Details

## Rest Haven Memorial Gardens

Mattoon, IL 61938

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 27. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home Ltd.  
1200 Wabash Ave  
Mattoon, IL 61938  
(217) 234-8828  
contact@mitchelljerdan.com  
<https://www.mitchell-jerdan.com/>

## Service

FEB 28. 10:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
1601 Charleston Avenue  
Mattoon, IL 61938

# Tribute Wall

DW

“ *very sorry for your loss*

Debbie Fleming Waggoner - February 28, 2024 at 07:40 PM

KP

“ *Kristi and Dan Paulson purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*



Kristi and Dan Paulson - February 27, 2024 at 05:35 PM

KP

“ *Kristi and Dan Paulson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*

Kristi and Dan Paulson - February 27, 2024 at 05:35 PM



“ *Memories to Treasure was purchased for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*



February 27, 2024 at 09:38 AM

GJ

“ Greg Izard, Frankie, Heather and Jody planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha "Alice" Nelson.

Greg Izard, Frankie, Heather and Jody - February 27, 2024 at 09:38 AM

BP

“ Brothers and sisters in Christ PBC purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.



Brothers and sisters in Christ PBC - February 27, 2024 at 08:07 AM

BP

“ Brothers and sisters in Christ PBC planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha "Alice" Nelson.

Brothers and sisters in Christ PBC - February 27, 2024 at 08:07 AM

KC

“ Aunt Alice was a very special lady. My childhood would not have been the same without her, Uncle Leo, Uncle David and Aunt Marbelle welcoming us home many a weekend. I'm so glad I got to visit her a couple of times this past year. I think this year's memories rival the first 11 years of my life and those times. To those who called her mom, grandma and NaNaMa (and what did that next generation call her?), I send you my love. She was a legend!

Kate Champion-Grieve - February 27, 2024 at 12:24 AM

ST

“ We only spent a short time with Alice but we immediately loved her. Her kindness, generosity and wonderful stories will never be forgotten. Love Steve, Cheryl and Sophie Lawrence x

steve - February 26, 2024 at 08:17 PM



“ 324 files added to the album LifeTributes



Mitchell-Jerdan Funeral Home - February 26, 2024 at 02:30 PM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.



February 26, 2024 at 10:55 AM

QB

“ From: Quality Parts, APEX, PMA, and BRFH planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha "Alice" Nelson.

Quality Parts, APEX, PMA, and BRFH - February 26, 2024 at 10:55 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*



February 26, 2024 at 07:56 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*



February 25, 2024 at 09:43 AM



“ *Laymon and Vickie Davis purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*



**Laymon and Vickie Davis** - February 24, 2024 at 06:48 PM



“ *Laymon and Vickie Davis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*

**Laymon and Vickie Davis** - February 24, 2024 at 06:48 PM

VD

“ Victoria D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha "Alice" Nelson.

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**Victoria D.** - February 24, 2024 at 06:35 PM

JM

“ Have known Alice for so many years and all the family. Long ago 4-H days. Remembering Leo also as leaders. Alice was our daughter's leader for baking. Stephanie won grand champion for her rice krispie treats. Then our granddaughter Jordan Sapp played softball at LLC for Nic. She would be called upon a few times to assist with "Big Al" and appointments. Jordan thoroughly loved those days. So easy to talk with Big Al. Lots of memories with the family. Will miss her. Always talked with her at the softball games. Her mind was sharp.  
Jeri (Ashworth) Morris

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**Jeri Morris** - February 24, 2024 at 02:23 PM

SM

“ Alice was one of my Mom's best church friends. Alice and Mom did so much together serving in the church. Now they are both together again.

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**Sue Beasley Meyer** - February 24, 2024 at 11:15 AM

JK

“ I am sorry for the loss of Alice. She and my mother, Lillian Weber, were great friends in the "Penney's Gang". She also did sewing for us. Years later, when my mother lived at assisted living, we would stay at the Comfort Suites when we came for visits to Mattoon. There we remembered the past and shared memories. She was always so friendly and caring. Cherish your fond memories of her.  
Joyce Weber Koselke

Joyce Weber Koselke - February 24, 2024 at 11:12 AM

AJ

“ Aunt Sandra, Dave, Mandy and John purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.



Aunt Sandra, Dave, Mandy and John - February 24, 2024 at 09:55 AM

AJ

“ Aunt Sandra, Dave, Mandy and John planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha "Alice" Nelson.

Aunt Sandra, Dave, Mandy and John - February 24, 2024 at 09:55 AM

RB

“ Bonnie and family...sincere sympathy sent to you and the rest of your beautiful family

Ruth Barczewski - February 24, 2024 at 09:34 AM

TF

“ *The Temple Family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*



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**The Temple Family** - February 24, 2024 at 09:18 AM

TF

“ *The Temple Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*

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**The Temple Family** - February 24, 2024 at 09:18 AM

PB

“ *So sorry to hear of Alice's passing. She was a wonderful person to work with when I sold suits at JCPENNEY in Mattoon. Very nice to talk to and was a super talented seamstress!!*

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**Paul Steven Burrus** - February 24, 2024 at 01:34 AM

WB

“ *My sympathy to you Bonnie. May many good memories stay with you. 🌹*



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**Wanda Baker** - February 23, 2024 at 11:39 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*



February 23, 2024 at 10:18 PM



“ *"Memories of you" garden stone was purchased for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*



February 23, 2024 at 03:31 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Martha "Alice" Nelson.*



February 23, 2024 at 03:29 PM



“ *I loved Alice so much. She was a rock & the matriarch of our family. Recalling so many memories of summers at the cottage & reunions at the main house. She will remain in my heart forever.*

**Cousin Samantha** - February 23, 2024 at 02:32 PM

PP

“ Many a Sunday after church and lunch before becoming a member of the Phelps family (dating a nephew at the time) into the Nelson clan we all went to Fox Ridge. Once all of us got there all the kids over 10 would take off on a trail. Aunt Alice decided to tag along to make sure we all behaved ourselves or that was the excuse she gave the other adults. We were about 5 minutes on the trail when we met other kids who were swinging on a grape vine across a very small stream of water. Aunt Alice decided that she would get across that way also. So Dar went 1st giving instructions and swung the vine back to us. Aunt Alice somehow managed to stop in the middle of the stream. She didn't get wet and knew not to let go. She knew she could get the vine swinging again. Next thing we knew she was upside down still attached to the vine laughing so hard that the rest of us couldn't help but laugh. She started to slide down the vine and only because the boys rolled up their pants legs and got rid of their shoes and socks to push her across were Dar could reach her and we could continue our trail. All of us still laughing and promised not to tell anyone back at our picnic site what she had done we continued on our journey. Aunt Alice they are all gone and I never told any of them. So now you can share the story with them. You will be missed. Love Pam

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**Pam Phelps** - February 23, 2024 at 12:55 PM