



## Cecelia Hepokoski

April 16, 1919 - August 30, 2003

Cecelia "Cele" Julia Schmit was born to her parents Mathias & Mathilda Schmit on April 16, 1919 in Tenney, Minn. She passed away at her home on Saturday, August 30th. Cele was united in marriage to Walter M. Hepokoski on Oct. 12, 1946 in Wadena. She was a homemaker who enjoyed plastic meshwork, crossword puzzles and watching the Minnesota Twins games on TV. She was a member of the St. Ann's parish and a member of the Christian Mothers. Cele was preceded in death by her husband Walt on Oct. 10, 2000; her parents; brothers Robert, David & Richard; and sisters Frances, Loretta & Genevieve. Cele is survived by sons Peter (Mary) of Downingtown, PA, Paul (Linda) of Hillsboro, OR, Steven (Deborah) of Maple Grove, Robert (Giselle) of Temuco, Chile; daughters Mary (AKA "Lee")(Paul) Buse of Austin, TX and Susan (Ivan) Skutvik of Denver, CO; grandchildren Daniel, Karl, James, Laura, Brent & Timothy. Burial will take place next to her husband in the Calvary Cemetery of Wadena following the services.

# Tribute Wall

PH

“ Mom was so delighted to be able to spend her final 1 1/2 weeks in her home.

*It was an honor for me to be at her side when she died in her sleep Saturday morning.*

*Mom left us in the same dignified style as she lived her life, confident of herself and caring about everyone around her. We will miss Mom greatly, but will find joy for the rest of our lives in memories of her and Dad.*

*Peter*

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**Peter Hepokoski** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

KC

“ Cele was a very special aunt, and we were privileged to have her in our family, too.

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**Karen Carlson** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

TH

“ Our sincere condolences to all members of the immediate family. We especially enjoyed exchanging newsy e-mails with Aunt Cele in recent years. We will miss her.

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**Tom Hepokoski** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ *Cel was a very special aunt and friend. Whenever you visited her you came away with a special feeling because she truly cared about you and your life. . I admire her will and determination. How many people at 84 would drag an oxygen tube around and never complain? Her first goal in the morning was to get her morning paper so she could complete her crossword puzzle for the day. She battled more diagnoses and diseases than most but never complained or gave up. What a privilege it was to know and love her. Praise God for her life.*

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**carolyn pulju** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

TW

“ *We're sad to hear Cele has passed away. We're praying for strength for her children during these times and that they get comfort from the good memories while growing up in Wadena.*

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**Tony Waisanen** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

PH

“ *My Mother's heart is my own heart  
For the nurturing, love, and protection.  
A heart through the years  
that softened my tears  
and gave my soul complexion.*

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**Paul Hepokoski** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ *Cele has always been a person to look up to and admire. She was a strong personality with a great sense of humor.*

*She is deeply loved and will be missed.*

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**Connie Riemers** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Steve -  
On behalf of the eye and contact lens departments I would like to extend to you our heartfelt sympathy at the loss of your mom. A mother is a very special part of our lives and we know this is a sad time for you and your family. Wishing you peace during this time.  
Joyce*

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**Joyce Fitch** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ *our prayers go out to your family*

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**Scott Ancel** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DE

“ I have such fond memories of the home and household that Uncle Walt and Aunt Cele created in Wadena. Visiting was always something to look forward to and the memories will always be with me. Cele with the quick response to the knock on the door because she was at the kitchen table watching a ballgame; Walt as quick with the firm handshake ready to offer a pint of raspberries from the patch.

*I've always marveled at Cele's resilience and ability to rebound over the years to the many health struggles and treatments that obviously underscored a strong determination for life! Now she is at peace and we were all blessed by her life.*

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**Dan Erkkila** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Barb and I express our deepest sympathy to "the Wadena cousins" and their families. Aunt Cele was a strong and special person, and she will be much missed by us all.

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**Jim Hepokoski** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

ME

“ May you find strength in knowing that others care. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

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**Mark Edson** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

PL

“ We are so sorry to learn of your loss.

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**Pat and Mike Lieppman** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

KA

“ Both Cele and Walt have always been a very special part of our family. They were like grandparents to Tim and Christine, who thought staying at Walt and Cele's during the Wadena County Fair was the ultimate in vacations. As we cousins find ourselves becoming the "older" generation, we see the whole picture of what life and living are all about. Thank God for grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles that taught us well by their example. My love to all of you.

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**Kathy Arretche** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ co-worker to Steve Hepokoski

*Thoughts and prayers to you and your family.*

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**Patty Czaja** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

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**Steven Rakes** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

PA

“ *A beauriful rainbow this wednesday morning over the monkey house. Mom always did like her bright colors.*

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**paul** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ *Our prayers are with you as you grieve for and honor your mother.*

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**James M. Lyons** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

VK

“ We learned to know and appreciate Cele mostly during her visits to Bob and Giselle when we were also visiting them. We found her to be a very gracious and loving mother and grandmother. She loved giving the Beanie Babies that her and our grandsons, Brent and Tim enjoyed. We will miss her.

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**Victor & Eloise Koehn** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Visiting Aunt Cele always felt good. Even if I had been away for several years since the last visit with her, she always made me feel as if it were just yesterday. Her coffee pot was always on, along with some tasty baked good to go along with it, and we'd settle down for a good chat.  
We both enjoyed the fact that we had the same wedding anniversary (October 12th), and she was especially good about remembering the date with a card. I will miss Aunt Cele, but I have wonderful memories of her.

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**Julie Hepokoski Martell** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

AD

“ When I think of my Aunt Cele, I remember a warm, loving and gracious person whom I shall miss very much. Her quiet sense of humor and loving ways were a treasure to all. My prayers are with all the family as they (and we) mourn her loss and celebrate her life.

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**Ann Dudero** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

KO

“ I never met, and therefore didn't know Paul's Mother, Cecelia..... but I do know that the apple seldom falls far from the tree, so she must have been a special person.

*My sympathy to all of her family and friends. It's never easy to lose someone we love..... but hopefully are able to be ever thankful for the time with them, and the memories we hold in our hearts.*

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**Karen Osband** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I'm going to miss visiting Mrs H when I get to Wadena. I hope the new owners of the house don't mind me stopping by and sitting at the kitchen table for a little while every now and then.

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**Dave Simmons** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM

DT

“ To all my "Brothers and Sisters",

*What a great Mom you had - Aunt Cele always made me feel like one of the family - to the point of doing the dishes and cleaning house. I am so glad my Mom got to visit with her the week before she passed. I will miss her.*

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**Diane Schmit Thorson** - August 30, 2003 at 12:00 AM