



Jeanette Pierce

March 20, 1937 - September 22, 2012

Funeral services for Jeanette Pierce of Wadena were held at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, September 25, 2012 at the United Methodist Church in Wadena with Pastor Shirley Nelson and Pastor John Fair presiding. Jeanette died peacefully at home on September 22, 2012, surrounded by family. Jeanette was born on a farm outside Cokato, MN, on March 20, 1937, to Swedish immigrants Thorsten and Ellen Benson. A short time later the family moved to south Minneapolis, where Jeanette spent her formative years. Eventually the family moved to the country, to what is now Maple Grove. She attended Osseo High School, graduating with honors in 1955. Her classmates voted for her as “having the best personality”. She studied at the University of Minnesota for a couple of years, where she met her future husband, Toby Pierce from Wadena. They were married February 1, 1957. They spent two years in Virginia, where Toby was stationed in the Army. They settled in Wadena and together founded Toby Pierce and Associates in 1959. Jeanette was an active member of the Wadena United Methodist Church, serving five annual terms as United Methodist Women’s president. She was a 38-year member and past president of PEO Sisterhood. She was a sister in the Gamma Omicron Beta Sorority. She was always there to help out, be it as a Cub Scout den mother, a long-time Girl Scout leader or a volunteer delivering Meals-on-Wheels. She enjoyed working at the City Library for many years. She loved socializing with friends, and especially loved Bridge Club. She was an excellent cook and a fine seamstress. She was proud of her Swedish

heritage, and was delighted when in the 1970's she was able to take a trip to Sweden with her mother. Through the years she kept in touch with friends from her days in Minneapolis and at Osseo High. She cherished all of them and her many wonderful friends from the Wadena area. Jeanette was a beautiful, gentle and loving soul who touched many with her kind heart. Her sense of humor will be missed by all who knew her. She truly believed there was good in everyone, and said it often. She was humble to the core. Jeanette cared deeply for her children and grandchildren and will be dearly missed by all of them. She is survived by her devoted husband of 55 years, Toby; brother Kenneth (Pat) Benson; children Lynn (Bernie Frey), Mark (Vicki), Beth (Randy) Curtis, Eric (Nancy) and Erin; grandchildren Ryan Pierce, Tara (John) St. Martin, Colton Borg, Kelsie Pierce, Hannah and Cameron Frey, Myles and Toby Curtis, and Jessica, Lance and Lexi Pierce; and great-granddaughter Audrey St. Martin. She was preceded in death by her parents; and nephews Douglas Benson and Jon Benson. Honorary pallbearers were Jeanette's PEO sisters, Bridge Club and the Wadena UMC Cut-ups. Pallbearers were Ryan Pierce, Colton Borg, Myles Curtis, Toby Curtis, Cameron Frey and Kelsie Pierce. A private family interment will be in the Wadena Cemetery in Wadena at a later date. Her family was very proud of how she lived her last few years despite struggling with Parkinson's disease, and the family prefers memorials to the Michael J. Fox Foundation.

Tribute Wall

RC

“ Jeanette was definitely one of the "beautiful people" - so kind and caring. We were truly blessed to have known her. Toby, you and your family have our deepest sympathy. We only wish we could be there to commemorate her life with you. We send our love, Tom and Rita

Rita Carew - September 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MK

“ My heart goes out to all of you. You are a caring family who put Mom first as she dealt with her illness. When I think of Jeanette I think of a truly kind person. She always greeted me with a sweet smile whenever we met and had a brief visit about our kids, some of who were in the same grades. Toby, you were always considerate of Jeanette's needs, a truly good husband, who spoke highly of your wife. I'm glad I knew Jeanette, she was a gem.

Mary Ellen Kennedy Kollodge - September 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DN

“ Toby, Erin and families,

You have our deepest sympathy. Even though I didn't know your wife and mother very well, she was always very friendly and cordial whenever we would meet downtown. Cherish the many wonderful memories you have! Toby, you are a remarkable husband! 55 years with the same wonderful woman is quite an accomplishment! I'm sure you have many memories as well of the years spent with the love of your life. Our prayers are with all of you as you grieve her absence. May the memories that you have comfort you in the days and months to come.

Deb Nelson - September 22, 2012 at 12:00 AM