

Joanne Edris (Rosenthal) Nelson

Joanne Edris (Rosenthal) Nelson, of Rolla, Missouri, passed away on Saturday, December 3, 2022 at the age of 81.

She was born on July 23, 1941 in Oak Park, Illinois to the late Henry and Edris (Garner) Rosenthal.

Joanne and Harlan Fredrick (Fred) Nelson met at Iowa State University and were married in 1961. Their three children were born while Fred was in graduate school at Purdue University. The family moved to Rolla in 1968 when Fred joined the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering faculty at UMR (now Missouri S&T), where Fred worked until his death in 2005. While on sabbaticals from UMR, they lived for a year each in Pasadena, California (1974-75, Jet Propulsion Laboratory), Lancaster, California (1981-82, Air Force Rocket Propulsion Laboratory, now AFRL Propulsion Directorate Edwards site), and Mountain View, California (1988-89, NASA Ames Research Center). Joanne was a homemaker while her children grew up, and then became a teacher at the First United Methodist Church nursery school in Rolla. Joanne enjoyed sewing, crafts, playing bridge with friends, gardening and following the St. Louis Cardinals, St. Louis Blues and Chicago Bears. In her later years she even participated in a local bowling league with many lifelong friends.

Joanne will be greatly missed by her surviving family which includes, two sons, Curt Nelson and wife Jennifer of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Greg Nelson



and wife Darlene of Warrensburg, Missouri daughter, Heidi Colench and husband Jeff of Rolla; one sister, Linda LeFavor of Nokomis, Florida; seven grandchildren, Andrew Nelson, Alexis Nelson, Courtney Colench, Benjamin Colench, Evan Colench, Zachary Colench, Chelsea Colench; and two step-grandchildren, Lauren Wilkenson and Heather Hudson.

Joanne was preceded in death by her parents, husband, and brother, Robert Rosenthal.

A funeral service for Joanne E. Nelson will be conducted at 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 29, 2022 at the Null and Son Funeral Home in Rolla. A visitation for family and friends will begin at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. A private family burial will be held at Rolla City Cemetery.

Memorial contributions are suggested to the Fred Nelson Memorial Scholarship at Missouri S&T.

Online condolences may be offered at www.nullandsonfuneralhome.com.

All arrangements are under the direction of Null and Son Funeral Home of Rolla.