



Nelta L. Melton

July 5, 1947 - December 14, 2025

Nelta L. Melton, 78 of Kearney, passed away Sunday, December 14, 2025, at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. Funeral services will be 3:30 p.m. Friday, December 19, 2025, at the Merryman Performing Arts Center in Kearney. Burial will be at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 20, 2025, at Melton Family Cemetery near Dickens, Nebraska. Visitation will be 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 18, 2025, at O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home in Kearney.

Memorials are suggested to the P.E.O. Chapter IX or to the charity of your choice. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com. Services are entrusted to O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral and Cremation Services.

Nelta was born July 5, 1947, in Omaha, NE, to James C. "J.C." and Marjorie (Zellers) King. While in grade school, J.C.'s career moved the family to Columbus. Nelta and her sister spent many summers at their grandparents' farm in Page. During high school, J.C.'s career took the family to York. She graduated from York High School with the Class of 1965. Nelta received her bachelor's degree in journalism from Kearney State Teacher's College in 1970. During her college career, Nelta was the editor of the campus newspaper, The Antelope, in 1967 and 1968. She was initiated into the Pi Delta Epsilon Journalism Honorary Fraternity in 1967.

On February 15, 1969, Nelta married Dan Melton in Kearney. Their marriage was blessed with two children. Following graduation, Nelta worked for the Kearney Daily Hub. After the birth of her son, Nelta devoted herself to creating a loving and nurturing home as a stay-at-home mother. In 1983, Nelta was ready to return to work. She and Dan had discovered the newly invented concept of VCRs and renting movies. This led them to open Video Kingdom of Kearney. Nelta ran the behind-the-scenes aspects of their business, while Dan operated the front end. The successful formula they implemented led to additional locations in Lexington and Cozad. Together, the couple owned and operated their Kearney store until their retirement in 2014.

Nelta was deeply committed to her community. She was a Camp Fire Girls Leader and a member of the Camp Fire Girls board. She was very active in and was a past president of Kearney United Way. Nelta was a member of Kearney Women's Club and the Shrine Club Auxiliary. Nelta was also proud to be a founding member and past president of P.E.O. Chapter IX.

Nelta loved her children and grandchildren and was devoted to supporting all their endeavors. She could always be seen in the bleachers, on the sidelines, and in the auditorium for their events. She rarely missed a game, meet, match, competition,

school event, music concert, or dance program. Alex, Rowdy, Sami, Ethan, and Ryder were the joys of her life; she cherished watching them grow up.

Nelta's interests reflected her love of life and her beloved Yankees. A lifelong Yankees fan, Nelta despised the "damn Dodgers" thanks to her grandmother. She treasured watching the Yankees play in the original Yankee stadium more than once with her son and her sister. She enjoyed reading, spending time at the family ranch on Red Willow Creek near Dickens, and watching the turkeys roost each evening at her beloved "Happy Trails Ranch" outside Kearney. She

also loved traveling, embarking on adventures with family and friends to destinations including Australia, New Zealand, Acapulco, Sint Maarten, Alaska, Hawaii, and nearly every state in the nation.

Above all, Nelta cherished the many friendships and family bonds she was blessed with throughout her lifetime. Her legacy is one of devotion, community, and joy.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Dan Melton of Kearney; daughter, Danette "Dani Sue" (Pete) Longoria of Kearney and their children; Alexander (Christina) Longoria of Shelton, Samantha (Jose Marquez) Longoria of Omaha, and Ethan Longoria of Kearney; great grandson, Andreas Longoria of Shelton; son, Justus Melton of Kearney and his children, Rowdy (Abby Rose) Melton of Lincoln, Ryder Melton of Riverdale and their mother Lori; sister, Elona (John) Howe of North Prince George, Virginia; brothers-in-law, Gary (Roni Marie) Melton of Wallace, NE and Randy Melton of Lincoln, NE, in addition to several nieces, nephews, extended family, and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents and grandson, Ronan Melton.

Cemetery Details

Melton Family Cemetery

Dickens, NE

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations
4115 Ave N
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 234-3500
info@osrfh.com
<https://www.osrfh.com>

Funeral Service

DEC 19. 3:30 PM (CT)

Merryman Performing Arts Center
225 W. 22nd Street
Kearney, NE 68845

Graveside Service

DEC 20. 1:00 PM.

Melton Family Cemetery
Dickens, NE

Tribute Wall

SF

“ Scott Lange and family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Nelta L. Melton.



Scott Lange and family - December 19, 2025 at 11:26 AM

SF

“ Scott Lange and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nelta L. Melton.

Scott Lange and family - December 19, 2025 at 11:26 AM

MF

“ Mardelle Wiseman and family purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Nelta L. Melton.



Mardelle Wiseman and family - December 19, 2025 at 10:37 AM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Nelta L. Melton.



December 19, 2025 at 10:03 AM

NS

“ Neighbors, Trenton, Garland & Lorna Snow planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nelta L. Melton.

Neighbors, Trenton, Garland & Lorna Snow - December 19, 2025 at 10:03 AM

JS

“ With deepest sympathy to family. May happy memories fill your hearts. Jo Smallcomb

Jo Smallcomb - December 19, 2025 at 09:51 AM

JM

“ Jauna Kay, Connor and Brooklyn McCormick purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Nelta L. Melton.



Jauna Kay, Connor and Brooklyn McCormick - December 19, 2025 at 02:00 AM

JM

“ Jauna Kay, Connor and Brooklyn McCormick planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nelta L. Melton.

Jauna Kay, Connor and Brooklyn McCormick - December 19, 2025 at 02:00 AM

SW

“ *Shanon W. purchased the Fall Fantasia for the family of Nelta L. Melton.*



Shanon W. - December 18, 2025 at 03:55 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Nelta L. Melton.*



December 18, 2025 at 03:17 PM

NF

“ *Nate & Missy Osentowski Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Nelta L. Melton.*



Nate & Missy Osentowski Family - December 18, 2025 at 11:46 AM

JP

“ *Jack & Peggy purchased the Full Heart for the family of Nelta L. Melton.*



Jack & Peggy - December 18, 2025 at 10:53 AM

MM

“ Matt, Alicia, Amelia & Mattison Martin purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Nelta L. Melton.



Matt, Alicia, Amelia & Mattison Martin - December 18, 2025 at 09:30 AM

MM

“ Matt, Alicia, Amelia & Mattison Martin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nelta L. Melton.

Matt, Alicia, Amelia & Mattison Martin - December 18, 2025 at 09:30 AM

AM

“ Always caring, always laughing, always loving. Will miss you so, Nelta! Love, Amy

Amy - December 17, 2025 at 09:11 PM

-M

“ - the daughter from another mother purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Nelta L. Melton.



- the daughter from another mother - December 17, 2025 at 09:10 PM

-M

“ - the daughter from another mother planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nelta L. Melton.

- the daughter from another mother - December 17, 2025 at 09:10 PM

DH

“ Dori Hunt purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Nelta L. Melton.



Dori Hunt - December 17, 2025 at 08:01 PM

DH

“ Dori Hunt planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nelta L. Melton.

Dori Hunt - December 17, 2025 at 08:01 PM

TF

“ Tom, Priscilla and Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Nelta L. Melton.



Tom, Priscilla and Family - December 17, 2025 at 07:13 PM

TF

“ Tom, Priscilla and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Nelta L. Melton.

Tom, Priscilla and Family - December 17, 2025 at 07:13 PM

DM

“ *Don and Laura McHugh purchased the Crystal Cross Bouquet for the family of Nelta L. Melton.*



Don and Laura McHugh - December 17, 2025 at 02:44 PM