



NICKY HELEN RUD

June 26, 1940 - January 19, 2026

Nicky Rud, age 85, of Caledonia, Minnesota, passed away peacefully at her son Tony's home on January 19, 2026. Born on June 26, 1940, in Caledonia, she spent her 85 years mastering the art of family, fun, and never missing a good card game. Nicky enjoyed senior dining at Elsie's. She enjoyed going to Music in the Park. She loved Thursday night music at Elsie's, especially when Lee would sing her favorites with Joe Cody. She loved watching her westerns and game shows. She enjoyed bingo trips to the casino, and playing euchre. She enjoyed making plastic canvas blocks for newborns, each block a letter of their name, a little token of her love. She loved being with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her beloved husband Willie, her grandson Willie Johnson, her brother Kenny, her sister Barbara, and many cherished sisters- and brothers-in-law, as well as dear friends who went before her.

She is survived by her children Joe and Virgie Rud, Craig and Vicky Johnson, Lee and Elsie Babler, and Tony Rud (Missy Benson), along with many loving grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and sisters-in-law Irene Hosch, Bev Rud and Margie Rud. She is also survived by her dear friends Ruth Klug and Jim Weiland, and her beloved cat, Cookie.

The family would like to thank Emplify Health and all of the hospice nurses

that helped us care for Nicky and guide us through this journey with such compassion. Also, thank you to the McCormick Funeral Home for helping us ensure all of Nicky's final wishes are fulfilled.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Elsie's in Caledonia on Saturday, January 24, 2026, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Nicky was clear: no flowers, just bring your best stories and a smile. After many goodbyes, this is our final one. Nicky is off to reunite with the love of her life, Willie, and we know she'll be calling the shots while Willie saves her a seat.

Previous Events

A Celebration of Life

JAN **24**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Elsie's
226 E. Main St.
Caledonia, MN 55921

Tribute Wall

KN

“ So sorry. She brought laughter and warm smiles to my heart. What a lady!

Kim Nielson - January 23 at 12:02 PM

SF

“ Sorry very sorry for your loss! She was a very nice lady and loved her smiles! Our Deepest Condolences Elsie, Lee and your families!

Susie Frank - January 22 at 06:15 PM

DS

“ Elsie & family, so sorry to hear of the sudden loss of Nicky. I enjoyed working with her for several years at the Cal Nursing Home when we were NAs. Nicky surprised me with her baby blocks when our grandson, Owen Charles, was born 9 yrs ago. What a nice gesture! She was always so happy & enjoyed life. RIP Nicky. You've completed your full life of 85 yrs here.

Dave & Wilma Schoh - January 20 at 04:20 PM

CW

“ I'll always remember Nicky's and my husband, Sanford's, duet, "Anything You Can Do, I Can Do Better," from Annie Get Your Gun, in the Founders' Day Comedy, Wynn Fairly, Champeen Rassler. They may have slaughtered it, but they sure had fun with it!

My deepest condolences to Nicky's family.

Candis Wiste - January 20 at 03:46 PM



MM

“ *Played lots of euchre games with Niki but what I will remember most is always having a smile for everyone, peace in your hearts family!* ”

Mary Meyer - January 20 at 01:43 PM



One of the first friendly faces I became accustomed to when starting my Caledonia life chapter. Always a little to say with a smile wrapping silverware at Elsie's. Years passed and then I saw her almost daily, pushing Gary in his purple stroller. Always with a smile. She was a lovely gal.

Diane Kappauf Novak - January 20 at 02:30 PM



So saddened hearing of Nicky's passing. She was such a kind and friendly lady. Always loved running into her at Elsie's. She would always stop and visit for a few minutes and ask about our son because she drove him to appointments a time or two when she drove for SEMCAC. Truly a lovely lady. Sending our sincere sympathy to her entire family.

Joanne Schuldt - January 20 at 02:38 PM

TH

Godspeed, Nicky

Terry Hosch - January 21 at 05:56 PM