

Karen Rae (Nelson) Moen
May 16, 1936 – October 16, 2015

Karen Rae Nelson was born on May 16, 1936, to Clarence and Judith "Judy" (Paulson) Nelson in Webster, South Dakota. Karen was raised and received her education in Roslyn, South Dakota, graduating from high school in 1956. She then continued her education at Augustana in Sioux Falls, earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in education.

In 1960, Karen moved to Devils Lake, North Dakota, and taught at the North Dakota School for the Deaf. While in Devils Lake, she was united in marriage with Curtis Moen. Karen and Curtis made their home in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and were blessed with two children.



Karen continued her teaching career in Sioux Falls, spending 32 years at the South Dakota School for the Deaf before retiring in 1993. Karen's love of education and learning led to postgraduate education at the University of South Dakota and Gallaudet University for many years throughout her career.

Karen was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and enjoyed spending time at the Center for Active Generations. She volunteered at the Outdoor Campus, Sertoma Butterfly House, Luther Manor, and Bethany's Rolvaag House guild. She loved spending time outdoors, especially trips to the lake, fishing, and traveling. Karen also enjoyed playing cards and Mahjong with her friends at Sunnycrest. Above all, she loved spending time with her family.

Grateful for having shared her life are her daughter, Melissa Moen and her partner, Ron Rasmussen, of McGregor, Minnesota; daughter-in-law, Machelle Moen of Harrisburg, South Dakota; five grandchildren, Justin Moen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Camille (Dan) Parker of Brandon, South Dakota, Matthew (Brooke) Moen of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, Tony Moen and his fiancée, Amber Sahy Lewis, of Duluth, Minnesota, and Corey Moen of Duluth, Minnesota; seven great-grandchildren, Kylee, Cade, William, Jameson, Ryder, Marlee, and Isabelle. Karen was anxiously awaiting the arrival of her eighth great-grandchild, due in December.

She is also survived by her sister, Eileen Nelson of Minneapolis, Minnesota; brother, Gary (Joyce) Nelson of Isle, Minnesota; and a host of other relatives and friends.



1982-1983 Administrative Staff
1983 SDSD Yearbook
Standing L to R: Superintendent Kelly Boesen, Brad Knudson, Robert Rae, and Kevin Steele.
Sitting L to R: Cecilia Wold, Edna Jensen, Mae Van Hull, and Karen Moen.