



## Juanita Helen Wessels

February 15, 1931 - December 25, 2019

Juanita H. Wessels, 88, of Mason City, died December 25, 2019, Christmas day at Good Shepherd Health Center.

Graveside services will be held 1:30 pm, Friday, January 3, 2019 at Graceland Cemetery, Buffalo Center. Officiating will be Rev. Nathaniel Schmidt of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Buffalo Center. There will be no visitation. Further Obituary and service information may be found on the [Fullertonfh.com](http://Fullertonfh.com) website and Facebook/[Fullertonfuenralhomes](https://www.facebook.com/Fullertonfuenralhomes).

Juanita Helen was born on February 15, 1931 in Buffalo Center, Iowa the daughter of Irwin and Selma "Teigen" Wessels. She graduated from Luther College and then Mankato State University with a degree in elementary education. She taught Elementary School in several locations including Garner, Clear Lake, Iowa, then Spokane WA, and Edina, MN. In the early 60s she took the opportunity to teach at the International School in Bad Godesberg, Germany. This gave her the opportunity to teach children from all over the world. After her experience teaching in Germany, she returned home and taught at Hoover Elementary School in Mason City for the last 29 years of her profession. She retired in June 1993.

Teaching was her passion and there were thousands of children that she taught. Her other passion was travel. In addition to travel in Europe based

from her teaching assignment in Germany she traveled extensively in the North America via car. Family members were often included in these wanderings.

Juanita was a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Delta Kappa Gamma and the Wa Tan Ye's.

She never married but loved and stayed very close to her family. Most notably she stayed very close to nieces and nephew supporting them and doing many activities. This includes three sisters: Elaine Skaar, St. Paul, MN, Clarice and Diane Wessels, both of Britt, IA, two nieces Rebecca Garey and Sara Skaar, one nephew Eric Skaar (Gail Ethier), and many nieces and nephews, Natasha Peden (Andy Bingham), Erin Garey (David Auner), Calder Skaar, Conner Peden and Alivia Bingham.

Her parents preceded her in death.

Arrangements at Fullerton Funeral Home, 123 2nd St SE, Mason City, IA 50401, 641-423-8676 [www.Fullertonfh.com](http://www.Fullertonfh.com) [Facebook/Fullertonfuneralhomes](https://www.facebook.com/Fullertonfuneralhomes)

# Cemetery Details

## Graceland Cemetery

Buffalo Center, IA

# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

JAN 3. 1:30 PM (CT)

Graceland Cemetery  
Buffalo Center, IA

# Tribute Wall



“ *Juanita Helen Wessels*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *I was so sorry to hear of Miss Wessels' passing. Miss Wessels was my 3rd grade teacher and was the reason I wanted to go into teaching myself. I have so many happy memories of being in her classroom: learning how to write in cursive, her reading Little House in the Big Woods to the class as well as the unit on Laura Ingalls Wilder, and the overall genuine love she had for each of her students. Her passion for literature was contagious and I remember the little sign she made to have at her table during Sustained Silent Reading that read "Do Not Distub." She was the first teacher who ever told my parents that I had a gift for writing, and whenever I envisioned myself as an educator, she was the teacher I most wanted to be like. Miss Wessels was a kind, warm, loving woman who made a great impact. She lived a beautiful life that will not be forgotten.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with her family. May your memories bring you joy and peace.*

*Much Love!  
Lindsey (Gardner) Swartwood*

Lindsey Swartwood - January 02, 2020 at 11:31 PM

LJ

“ *I taught at Hoover School with Juanita from 1973 to her retirement. She was a wonderful, caring teacher and a loving friend. She cared about every child in her classroom as if they were part of her family. I imagine that in Heaven they need great teachers to keep the angels busy...Juanita will fit that bill!*  
*Linda Jensen*

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**linda jensen** - January 02, 2020 at 09:55 PM

DT

“Miss Wessels was one of my favorite teachers at Hoover Elementary. She made school fun and instilled a love of books, reading, & learning. She was so kind and embodied the word "lovely." She was such a gifted teacher and set a high standard for those around her and those who followed her.

My mom, Jan (Denger) Huey, worked as a para at Hoover - she & Juanita remained friends through the years. My late husband, Dave Wilson, taught PE at Hoover the last 7 years of Juanita's career. He thought of her as a master teacher - I remember him saying she was focused & committed in her profession through her last day in the classroom.

One of my favorite memories was when the Hoover staff had a baby shower for us - it was Juanita's last year teaching. We had such fun reminiscing about the old days & marvelling that my child would also be going to Hoover:)

Hoover had a school song - our music teacher, Mrs. Johnson, would be upset that I don't remember the 1st verse but here's the rest:

"One day a hush will fall,  
the footsteps of us all  
will echo down the halls and disappear.  
But as we sadly start  
our journeys far apart  
a part of every heart will linger here...  
in... the...  
hallowed halls of Hoover,  
where we've lived & learned to know  
that through the years we'll see you  
in the sweet afterglow."

I now imagine Miss Wessels sitting in the sweet afterglow with our blessed Savior - reading to Him:)

*I can only imagine how much you, her family, will miss her - but what a blessing to have had someone so lovely in your life. May your memories bring you joy.*

*Sincerely,  
Deb (Wilson) Thorsen  
Mason City, IA*

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**Debra Sue Thorse** - December 31, 2019 at 03:03 PM

TN

*Juanita was one of my confirmation teachers and she always held a special place in my heart. It makes me sad to think I can no longer feel her warm embrace at church but I'm so happy to know that is at peace.  
Love, Tiffany*

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**Tiffany Nonnweiler** - January 06, 2020 at 04:55 PM