



## Norma Lee Hamel

October 20, 1936 - August 25, 2006

### OBITUARY

#### NORMA LEE HAMEL

Norma Lee Hamel, age 69 of Denver, CO passed away Friday Morning, August 25, 2006 at her home after a long illness.

She was born in St. Louis, MO on October 20, 1936 the daughter of Glenn Howe and Hazel Marie Kennedy.

She had worked in Memphis, TN as a hospital administrator for the Veterans Hospital.

Surviving is her children, Gerald Wayne Hamel of Denver, CO; and Anna Marie Hamel of Trabuco Canyon, CA; and a brother, Bobby G. Howe of the Philippines.

Graveside Funeral Services will be held on Thursday, August 31, 2006 at 10:00 AM in the Mt. Gilead Cemetery south of Bolivar with the Rev. Harold Hendrickson officiating. Burial will be under the direction of the Butler Funeral Home of Bolivar.

Friends may sign the guest book or send private condolences at [www.butterflyneralhome.com](http://www.butterflyneralhome.com)

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# Tribute Wall



“ *Norma Lee Hamel*

October 05, 2023 at 05:18 AM



“ *Norma Lee Hamel*

January 26, 2023 at 04:15 PM



“ *Norma Lee Hamel*

**jom troy** - September 10, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths. Absent from the body is present with the Lord. To the family may the Lord continue to strengthen you during your time of sorrow.*

**Brenda Lemons** - September 06, 2006 at 12:00 AM



“ *YOU WILL BE TRULY MISS.*

**MARVIN A. LANE** - September 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

WH

“ I have known Norma for more than 40 years, since I serviced her Dictaphone machines at the U.S. Public Health Hospital and the VA Medical Center in Memphis. She was a very friendly and gracious lady. I learned of her passing through a friend, Jean Starnes. Your mother will surely be missed among her many friends and acquaintances.

*Wendell Hall*

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**Wendell Hall** - September 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ My condolences go out to the family. You have my prayers. I knew Norma when she worked at the VA Medical Center. I will never forget her.

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**Ben Jackson, Jr.** - September 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ TO THE CHILDREN OF MRS.HAMEL:  
I HAD THE HONOR OF WORKING WITH YOUR MOTHER. SHE WAS A VERY WONDERFUL PERSON. SHE TAUGHT ME A LOT. I WILL NEVER FORGET HOW SHE GAVE UP HER CHRISTMAS LEAVE AND LET ME BE OFF SO I COULD SPEND CHRISTMAS WITH MY FAMILY. I WILL NEVER FORGET THAT. I KNOW IT MUST BE HARD FOR YOU. I TOO HAVE LOST MY MOTHER. I WILL KEEP YOU BOTH IN MY PRAYERS.

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**JOANNE AKINS** - September 01, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *May God comfort you at this difficult time, and be comforted in knowing how much your mother adored you. She was a very special lady who blessed me with her friendship. She was an inspiration to all who knew her. God bless you.*

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**Millie McIntosh** - August 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *I will certainly miss Norma, she was an excellent transcriptionist and a good friend. I was blessed to have known her.*

*My deepest condolences to Ana and Gerald. Norma was blessed to have dear children. Remember God loves you He is only a prayer away and He is concerned about you.*

*Carol Mouton-Dupree*

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**Carol Mouton-Dupree** - August 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ *Perhaps they are not stars in the sky but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy.*

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**BERTHA J MELLS** - August 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

J(

“ Dear Gerald and Anna Marie:

*I was so sorry to hear of your Mother's death. Norma and I have been friends for a long, long time. In fact, she was my bridesmaid and my only bridesmaid in my wedding. That was in June of 1965.*

*Even though we didn't stay in touch in the latter years, I still considered myself a friend to your mother. She was quite a woman.*

*My sympathy goes out to you two. She will be sorely missed by all.*

*Love to you both,  
Jean Ritter (Owen)  
Millington, TN 38053*

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**Jean Ritter (Owen)** - August 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ To the family of Norma Hamel: My condolences go out to you. You have been and will continue to be in my prayers. I had the opportunity to work with Norma at Le Bonheur for a number of years. She was a person that always looked for the best in people. She was always giving but never wanted to be on the receiving end. Norma will be truly missed. Remember GOD's grace is sufficient.

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**Alice Maris** - August 31, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ I have fond memories of both your parents from my childhood. I am Jean and Cephas Starnes daughter and our mothers were friends before I was born (I think). I remember your mom coming to visit us when we lived in Florida. And I remember how excited we all were when the two of you were born. I babysat the two of you one summer when I was in highschool, after we had moved back to Memphis. I can't remember how old you were then...young but not babies. It was in '71 or '72. I then saw your mom at the VA periodically over the years because I've been a nurse there since '78. She was always special to us, as you all were. You are both in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Janet Vawter** - August 30, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ How grieved we are tonight to learn of Norma Lee's death. We were so close for so many years, and had we known of her illness or how to get in touch with her these last few months we would have been there to love her and share old memories.

Anna and Gerald your parents brought you to visit us in Minnesota when you were 9 months old and then in 1970 we moved back to Memphis and were together every weekend to go camping, etc. We lost touch after Norma moved to a new apartment after she retired and have been sad about that.

Norma and Jean met when they worked together at the old depot in Memphis in 1959 or 1960, and then worked together at the VA Hospital. She was loved by our whole family. The last time we saw the two of you was when our daughter Janet was married in May 1983. We are so sorry that we aren't going to be with you in the morning, but we will be in touch. We have always loved you and your parents. We have many memories to share with you later; meanwhile we will pray for God to comfort you as only God can. Love! Jean and Cephas

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**Cephas & Jean Starnes** - August 30, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ I had only had the opportunity to be with Norma a couple of times but feel like I have known her, through my aunt Kathleen Montgomery, all of my life. Kathleen's stories of how Norma's strength persevered through adversity, especially through her final illness, are truly inspirational. Kathleen tells me that, when Anna came to Memphis to help Norma these past few months, she came to know that she had inherited her mother's strength and logic. Not only did they find good times together as the cancer closed in but got Norma moved to Denver where she could spend her last days with both of her children. The Hamels' positive attitude reflects to all who know their story and, on days when I might be inclined to feel sorry for myself, I think of them and conquer adversity.

*I also think of Norma's generosity when I walk into my closet and wear the many "jazzy" clothes (as mentioned above) and shoes that I was lucky enough to be the right size to inherit from Norma's stylish wardrobe. She was definitely a classy lady and I will try to show the same class as I walk in her shoes -both literally and figuratively.*

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**Susan Madonia** - August 30, 2006 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ I was just informed of Norma's death and am deeply saddened. She was Secretary to the Assistant Medical Center Director when I began working at VAMC Memphis in 1973. I will never forget her kindness and help during my early years and will always treasure the close friendship we developed in later years. My most sincere condolences to her family.

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**J. Gerald Miller** - August 30, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ My God give the family strength to make it through this difficult time. We will miss Norma. To be absent from the body and present with the Lord!

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**MARY POWERS** - August 30, 2006 at 12:00 AM

WD

“ I worked with your mother for 26 years. I became a maa under Norma's training. She was a nice person to be around. I am sure she will be missed.

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**WILLIAMS,VALLIE D** - August 30, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ A dear friend whom I shall miss so very much. I shall never forget her faith and shall cherish the memories of our 45 years of friendship.

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**Kathleen C. Montgomery** - August 29, 2006 at 12:00 AM

EL

“ "To know her is to love her" is a most fitting quote for Norma. In the few short years that I was blessed with knowing Norma, I learned so much about compassion, wisdom, strength and endurance. In the workplace she was known as the most put together jazzy dresser and one of the most etiquette minded people I have met. She tackled her assignments at work with the same vim and vigor as she did her life. I always appreciated Norma's ability to laugh; not only at herself, but at me as well. We will truly miss Norma's vivaciousness and her compassion for others. Her children are her memorial and a true reflection of her goodness. My sympathy and my blessing. Love, e

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**Elizabeth** - August 29, 2006 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Dearest Anna & Gerald:

*Even though I will see you on Thursday, I just wanted you to know how honored I feel to have been chosen to be one of your mother's friends. As I think of her, all I can visualize is what a kind, thoughtful, caring, and beautiful lady she was inside and out. She always had such a precious beautiful glow about her that poured out her loving kindness. She definitely would light up when she spoke of you two. She loved you both with all her heart. It gives me comfort to know we will see her again one day when we all get to Heaven.*

*You are welcome to call or visit my home anytime - I'll be there for you - just as your mother was for me.*

*Love, Sandi*

*Romans 1:9 "...For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of his Son, that without ceasing, I make mention of you always in my prayers..."*

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**Sandi Helms** - August 29, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Our church was praying for your mother, every Sunday. We will continue to pray for you all.

*Sandy talked about her so much, I feel as if I know her.*

*God Bless,  
Barbara Haley  
Grace for Us Ministries*

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**Barbara Haley** - August 29, 2006 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you both during this time of great loss. Your Mom radiated love and peace and although she will missed so much, she is now at home receiving all that peace and love she gave to others.*

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**Karen McCleary** - August 29, 2006 at 12:00 AM

ND

“ *I am so sorry for your loss. I worked with Norma for many years and thoroughly enjoyed her! She was always a shining star and could cheer up the dickens in anyone. She was one of a kind and also one of a very special group of MAA's that taught me so much. Please accept my deepest sympathy.*

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**Nancy Dixon** - August 29, 2006 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ *I pray that the memories you have of your loved one will give you comfort. Be thankful for all the time you shared. I'm grateful to have experienced Norma as a season in my life. She taught me a lot. May the Grace of God comfort you.*

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**Constance Ameen** - August 29, 2006 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *I am sorry to hear of Norma's passing. I worked with her for 30 years at the VA Hospital. She was a caring person and we have missed her since she left. She was very aware of the importance of taking care of our veterans and was very dedicated in her work. I am glad to hear that she was with her family for her last days because family was very important to her. My condolences to all the family.*

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**Maureen Wheeler** - August 29, 2006 at 12:00 AM

GP

“ No words can express the amount of sympathy for the loss of a loved one but take comfort in the many memories Norma leaves with each and everyone she touched.

*She was and is a great woman and I enjoyed working with her at the Memphis VA.*

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**Gail L. Polk** - August 29, 2006 at 12:00 AM

BA

“ Please accept my sincere condolences for the loss of your mother. I knew Norma when she worked as the MAA at the VA Medical Center. She was a very dear person and you can be assured she will be missed and will be in a better home.

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**Becky Adams** - August 29, 2006 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ I am so glad that I had the opportunity to know Norma. She was a kind, gracious lady. I will not forget her.

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**Pat Morgan** - August 28, 2006 at 12:00 AM