

Carmen Deann Oeltjen was born December 26, 1959 in Glenwood, Minnesota. Carmen was the oldest of six children born to Richard and Berniece (Reichmann) Oeltjen. She grew up on a farm south of Glenwood and attended Glenwood Lutheran Church. Carmen graduated from Glenwood High School in 1978. She furthered her education and received her bachelor's degree at North Dakota State University and her master's degree from the University of Iowa. She studied math and statistics. Carmen was married briefly. She had no children from this union. Carmen loved her career supporting the Department of Defense in government and contractor positions. Many of her jobs allowed her to live in Germany – her favorite place in the world. She lived and worked in the Stuttgart area for more than 25 years. She also spent several years in Kentucky, Ohio and Missouri.

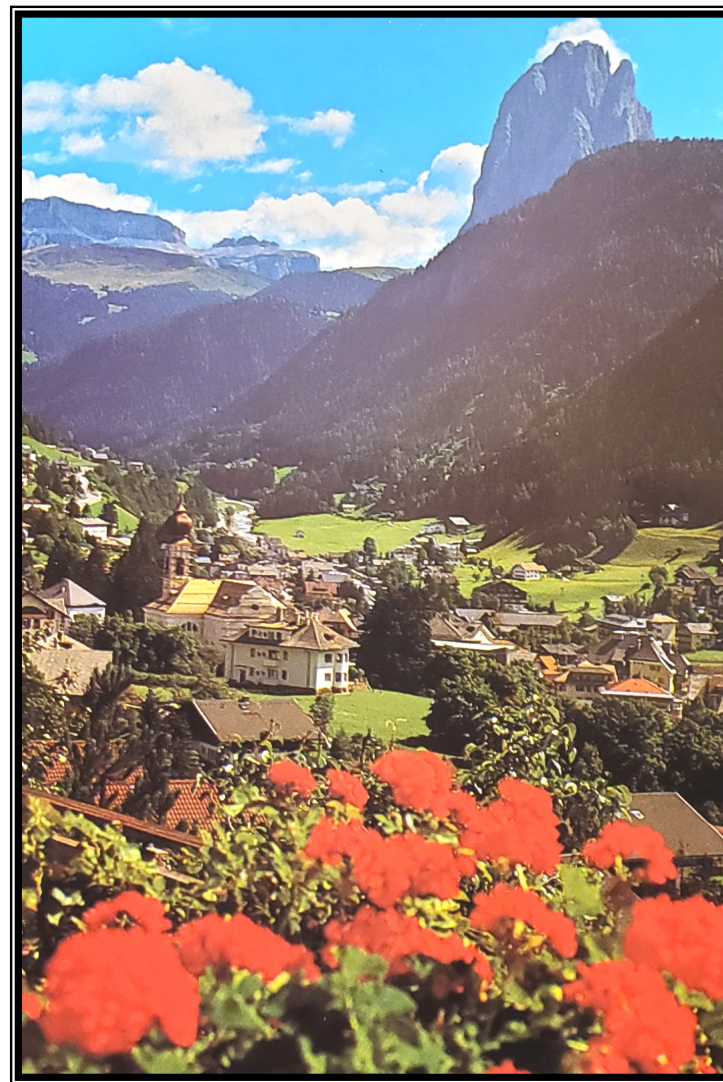
Wherever Carmen lived she was active in her faith community. She was a coach and volleyball official. Carmen loved skiing in the Alps and having fun with her ski club. She traveled extensively and loved telling stories about her adventures when she returned to Minnesota to spend time with family. Carmen was diagnosed with breast cancer in June of 2019. She returned to Glenwood in March 2020 to be near family. As recently as August she was able to do what she loved, traveling to see friends in Florida. She will be remembered for her love of volleyball, travel, family and friends. She died October 9, 2021 at the Glacial Ridge Hospital in Glenwood.

Carmen is survived by her parents, Dick and Berniece Oeltjen of Glenwood; sisters: Brenda (Don) Sack and Amy (Robert) Schuldt; brothers: Craig (Julie) Oeltjen, Bret (Lisa) Oeltjen and Aric (Leah) Oeltjen; nieces and nephews: Erin (Paul), Hannah, Kate, Adam, Phemie, Adeline and Gus and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents.

Carmen's family would like to express special thanks to her friends and military family who helped Carmen at the beginning of her illness which allowed her to extend her time in Germany.

Celebrating the Life of



Carmen Deann Oeltjen

December 26, 1959 - October 9, 2021

To send condolences to the family,  
visit [hoplinhitchcockfuneralhome.com](http://hoplinhitchcockfuneralhome.com) and click on obituaries.

## I'm Free

Don't grieve for me now, for now I'm free  
I'm following the path God laid for me.  
I took his hand when I heard him call  
I turned my back and left it all.  
I could not stay another day  
to laugh, to love, to work or play.  
Tasks undone must stay that way.  
I found that peace at the close of the day.  
If my parting has left a void  
then fill it with remembered joy.  
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,  
ah, yes, these things I too will miss.  
Be not burdened with times of sorrow  
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.  
My life's been full, I've savored much,  
good friends, good times,  
a loved one's touch.  
Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,  
don't lengthen it now with undue grief.  
Lift up your hearts and share with me  
God wanted me now;  
He set me free.

*In Loving Memory of*

Carmen D. Oeltjen

**WHO WAS BORN**  
Dec. 26, 1959  
Glenwood,  
Minnesota



**AND DIED**  
Oct. 9, 2021  
Glenwood,  
Minnesota

**AT THE AGE OF**  
61 years, 9 months and 13 days

**MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.  
Glenwood Lutheran Church  
Glenwood, Minnesota

**OFFICIATING**  
Rev. Katherine Rood

**ORGANIST**  
Diane Moeller

**HONORARY BEARERS**  
Erin - Hannah - Kate  
Adam - Phemie - Adeline - Gus

**INURNMENT**  
Lake Amelia Cemetery  
rural Villard, Minnesota

*Arrangements with the Hoplin-Hitchcock  
Funeral Home, Inc. Glenwood, MN*