



## Ione J. Schelbitzki

June 27, 1920 - December 26, 2024

A Memorial Service for Ione will be Monday, December 30, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the United Methodist Church in Geneva, Nebraska. Kim Dunker will preside over the Memorial Service.

A private Graveside Service will be held in the Ohioa Public Cemetery.

Public visitation will be Sunday, December 29, 2024 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with family present from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Farmer & Son Funeral Home in Geneva.

Memorials are suggested to Ohioa American Legion Auxiliary and the Ohioa Public Cemetery.

Ione June Schelbitzki passed away peacefully on December 26th, 2024 in Geneva, Nebraska at the age of 104 years, 5 months, and 29 days. She was born in Plana, South Dakota on June 27, 1920 to Rudy & Mamie (Hemen) Vitense.

She grew up on a farm near Columbia, South Dakota and graduated from Columbia High School. Ione married Lloyd D. Schelbitzki on December 21, 1940 and to this union, 5 children were born: JeNeane (H. Roger) Dodson, Lincoln, Nebraska; Audene (Leland) Bird, Loveland, Colorado; Layne (Vicki)

Schelbitzki; Western, Nebraska; Penni (Fred) Bruning, Bruning, Nebraska; and Jay Schelbitzki, Santa Rosa, California.

To their family they added 12 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren: JeNeane's children; Whitney Dodson, and his daughters Jillian and Grace, and daughter Alesia and her husband Bill Spangler, and their daughters-, Cameron, and Elsa; Audene's children; son Brad and wife Kalina Webb and daughters Emily and Lindsey, daughter Kristy and husband Peter Oberhammer and their children Macie, Alec and Julia, and son Dan Webb; Layne and wife Vicki's children; son Todd and wife Danielle Schelbitzki and their son Blayne, son Dusty and wife Angie Schelbitzki, and their children , Easton and Emery, daughter Stacy and husband Craig Lutjemeyer, and their children Lani and Alli, son Ryan and wife Shelby Schelbitzki, and their children Remi and Ruby; Penni and husband Fred's children; son Adam and wife Carley Bruning, and their children Frankie, Charlee and Liam, daughter Abby and husband Dr. Nick Branting, and their children Annika and Lukas, son Reiss and wife Heather, and their son Henry.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mamie (Hemen) and Rudolph John Henry Vitense; her husband, Lloyd D.; sons, Jay and Layne; sisters, Myrtle Sieber, Myrtis Daly, Elaine Frohling, Wanda Stange, Shirley Dayton; brothers, Bob Vitense and Forrest Vitense; and sons-in-law, Jack Webb, Roger H. Dodson, and Leland Bird.

She is survived by her children/family, JeNeane Dodson of Lincoln, Nebraska, Audene Bird of Loveland, Colorado, Vicki Schelbitzki (daughter-in-law) of Western, Nebraska, and Penni and husband, Fred D. Bruning of Bruning, Nebraska; 12 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren; sisters, Mavis Lief and Muriel Oles; and brother, Neil Vitense.

lone was a member of Geneva United Methodist Church, Geneva Mother's

Club, and a 79 year member of the Ohio American Legion Auxiliary.

lone was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She had various community interests and enjoyed hobbies, especially quilting. She was a great gardener, baker and canner, but most important of all was her large family of loved ones that she loved dearly.

The youngest of 3 girls, lone June was born in a country farm house near Plano, South Dakota. When she was 4, the family moved to a farm north of Columbia, South Dakota. At age 6, her mother was hospitalized after a miscarriage and died of peritonitis. This was a traumatic time for the little girls. A hired lady moved in to keep house and care for the girls. After 2 years, Rudy married Lois Hemen. To this union, 8 children would be born into the family.

After graduation from Columbia High School, lone worked for 2 years caring for older women and mothers with newborns in their homes. She always loved babies! Meanwhile, on the farm, her father owned a thrashing machine and every summer hired a crew that came through South and North Dakota to help with the harvest. Among them were brothers Frank Jr. and Lloyd Schelbitzki from Nebraska. Lloyd started dating lone (local dances) and he decided to stay for the fall corn harvest which was picked by hand. The dancing continued and lone and Lloyd were married that winter on December 21, 1940. They moved to Nebraska to a little house on his dad's land. Lloyd helped farm, had 1 milk cow and a few chickens. Baby JeNeane was born in the little house on a hot summer day. That fall Lloyd passed a test and was hired to work as a draftsman for Lockheed Aircraft Co. in Burbank, California. They bought a small trailer house pulled by their Model A Ford and with the baby on mother's lap, they headed west. Just like the old Lucille Ball movie, their trailer was too heavy to pull up the Rocky Mountains, so, lone had to sell

all her home canned jars of tomatoes (2 for \$.50) to a woman in Colorado and then they were able to get through the mountains. They were in California for 3 years. A second daughter, Audene, was born in January 1944 and soon after, Lloyd was drafted into the Navy and they moved to Norman, Oklahoma for his basic training – living on the University of Oklahoma campus in a beautiful big fraternity house. Lloyd was to be based in California, so he moved lone and their 2 little girls to an apartment in Columbia, South Dakota to be near her family. Lloyd eventually deployed to the Philippines. When WWII ended, the family again moved back to Nebraska to Lloyd's "homeplace" – a large 4 square farmhouse where he was born and was built by his father, located between Ohioa and Strang, near Harmony country school. It was a good life on the farm. Lloyd and lone were a successful team and they worked hard. She kept busy with her chickens, the garden, a large orchard of fruit trees, church activities, teaching Sunday school and sewing clothes for the children. Layne was born in February 1950; Penni in March 1954 and Jay in October 1956. A fun busy family with lots of birthday parties and good cakes! lone always took time to play or read with the kids – when she wasn't hanging wash on the line to dry! She was always willing to play games or cards and liked to entertain neighbors and friends. Often making homemade ice cream and her special chocolate sauce.

Then came the grandchildren – and lots of cookies and kool-aid. A fond memory was a blackboard that hung near the back door. That blackboard was a message board that had dates and times of where they were to be, so that coming home from school the kids knew what field they were in or often times a meter reading was written down. After 40 years, Lloyd and lone sold their farm home and buildings that had been in the Schelbitzki family for 100 years. In 1987 they moved to Geneva where they lived in their brick house on 8th Street for 30 years.

They especially enjoyed traveling south during the winter months from 1980 to

1998 to Texas and then Yuma, Arizona to be close to her many brothers and sisters who were also there to enjoy warmer weather. They made friends easily and were always entertaining. A large map was always displayed in their home marking 49 of the 50 states they had visited (they never made it to Maine). Ione never missed a chance to visit or take a meal to those that needed some comfort, always taking along her children to witness the ways of her Christian fellowship, and serving.

They were married 68 years when Lloyd died in 2008. Ione stayed in her house for several more years before choosing to move to Heritage Assisted Living in 2017.

Ione June has more June's in the family to carry on her name-Penni June, Abby June, Annika June, Charlee June, and her namesake - especially Alli Ione.

She was not one to ever sit idle. If she was sitting, she was mending, sewing, or crocheting her famous dish scrubbers. A family member, Nick, lovingly named the scrubbers-  
"The Ioneator".

She was a kind, loving, energetic, strong – willed little woman. Each member of her family has a quilt that she made especially for them – even the grand babies and the great grandchildren!

She will be remembered as a person small in stature, but with an enormous heart for loving and caring for others.

# Cemetery Details

## Ohiowa Public Cemetery

Ohiowa  
NE, NE 68416

# Previous Events

## Family Present for Visitation

DEC **29**. 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Visitation

DEC **29**. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Farmer & Son Funeral Home  
242 N 10th Street  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3617  
<https://farmerandsonfuneralhome.com>

## Memorial Service

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DEC 30. 11:00 AM (CT)

Geneva United Methodist Church  
942 H St  
Geneva, NE 68361  
(402) 759-3034

## Private Graveside Service

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DEC 30 (CT)

Ohiowa Public Cemetery  
Ohiowa  
NE, NE 68416

# Tribute Wall

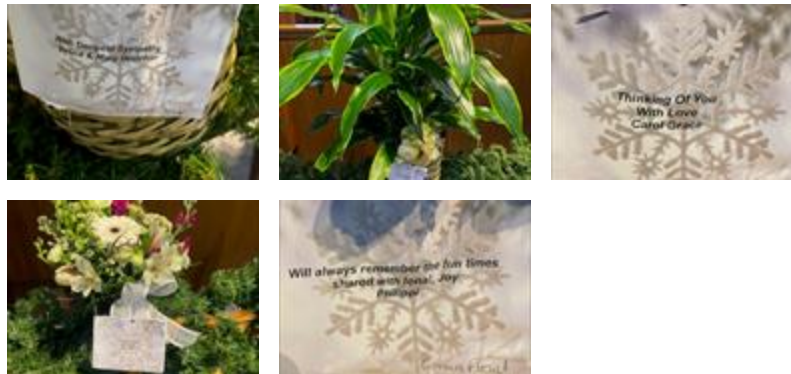


“ *lone was a wonderful person, someone I have known all my life. She and my mother were dear friends from the moment they met as new brides and mothers after World War II. Their husbands were first cousins and so we saw much of each other's families growing up. After our parents died in the 1990s, my sister Carol and I kept in touch with lone, even after she moved into Heritage. She was always full of energy and ideas, such a pleasure to know.*  
*Linda Schelbitzki Pickle*

Linda Pickle - December 30, 2024 at 08:28 PM



“ *23 files added to the album Flower Arrangements*



Farmer & Son Funeral Home - December 30, 2024 at 09:50 AM



“ *Small Garden Dish was purchased for the family of lone J. Schelbitzki.*



December 28, 2024 at 01:19 AM

TB

“ *Deepest and Sincerest Sympathy to lone's family. I always enjoyed visiting with her. Fly high with the Angels lone!* ”



Terry Ann Brandt - December 27, 2024 at 10:37 PM

JT

“ *The obituary is a wonderful tribute to a sweet lady. What adventures she and Lloyd had over their lifetimes. Loved her scrubbies!* ”

jane Tonniges - December 27, 2024 at 06:37 PM

VJ

“ *Virginia Johnson lit a candle in memory of lone Schelbitzki* ”



Virginia Johnson - December 27, 2024 at 06:19 PM

CD

“ *lots of memories crossing the road and playing at there place. i will never forget the first time we had cake at her house and found money or a button wrapped in foil in the cake i usually got a button. she was a very sweet lady that will be missed by many. Rest In Peace* ”

Chris Dunker - December 27, 2024 at 01:30 PM

AT

“ I enjoyed lone with her quick wit and wonderful senses of humor. She was part of some Ambassador Club activities back in the days when she felt better. All of my kids benefited from the little scrubbers she made. I think I bought a hundred of them from her. I stopped in to say hello when I was visiting at Heritage. She didn't know me the last couple of years. She lived a long life and was probably ready to go home. My sympathy goes out to her family.

Alice Tatro - December 27, 2024 at 01:05 PM

BR

“ Bonnie Rippe lit a candle in memory of lone Schelbitzki



Bonnie Rippe - December 27, 2024 at 10:16 AM

AB

“ Ann Bruntz lit a candle in memory of lone Schelbitzki



Ann Bruntz - December 27, 2024 at 09:42 AM

TF

“ The Chris Tonniges Family purchased the Arrive i n Style for the family of lone J. Schelbitzki.



The Chris Tonniges Family - December 27, 2024 at 08:59 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of lone J. Schelbitzki.*



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December 27, 2024 at 08:22 AM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of lone J. Schelbitzki.*



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December 26, 2024 at 09:00 PM



“ *We were neighbors, and I always enjoyed visiting with this mighty and little lady. She was not afraid to speak her mind, and that is what I loved about her!*



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**Barbara Trapp** - December 26, 2024 at 02:46 PM



“ *Linda Heinisch lit a candle in memory of lone Schelbitzki*



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**Linda Heinisch** - December 26, 2024 at 12:42 PM