

Gerada Nelson

November 23, 1933 – August 29, 2026

Gerda Nelson was born near Sutton, NE, to Alex and Lydia Leitner on November 23, 1933, and passed away in Stillwater, OK, on August 29, 2026. Her parents fled Czarist Russia from their settlement in Ukraine. She attended a country school and showed talent in literature, art, and design. At a young age, she met Ted Nelson; they married five years later. She taught country school while Ted attended the University of Nebraska. They moved to Ft. Sill, OK, where Ted served as an artillery lieutenant. In 1966, they moved to Stillwater where Ted was employed as a professor at Oklahoma State University. After spending some time as a volunteer in several community groups, Gerada ran the nursery at First Methodist Church. Later, she became an advisor for the OSU Journalism Department where she served as advisor for Garth Brooks. Gerda was also an active volunteer of the League of Women Voters, as well as worked on behalf of Oklahoma's neglected populations, specifically women and children. Gerada and Ted celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary 12 days before she passed away. She is survived by her husband, daughters Anne and Jennifer of New York City, and their son Daniel of Cincinnati, as well as by seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.