



## Bessie L. Franssen

March 26, 1938 - January 16, 2026

Bessie Lee Franssen, born March 26, 1938, Norfolk, Arkansas to parents Cecil and Irene (Lawson) Graham, passed away in Hico, Texas on January 16, 2026, at age 87. Bessie know as Lee to her family and friends was a graduate of Kearney State University in 1973 and was a Licensed LPN. Lee was a nurse at the VA Medical Center in Grand Island, Nebraska. Lee enjoyed writing stories for family and taking care of her grandchildren and her great grandchildren.

Preceding Lee in death were her parents, siblings Ernie Lawson, Norma Drohman and Victor Smith.

Lee is survived by daughter April Nielson and husband Neal, son, Steve Franssen and wife Rene, grandchildren, Paul Nielson and wife Jennifer, Joseph Nielson, Jamie Nielson, Alexander Franssen, Jordan Zaugg, Jarod Zaugg. Lee ai also survived by siblings, Florence Killian, Jim Smith Phyllis Wilbur, Linda Kicklighter and husband Grady, Barbara Beard, Nicci Pierce and husband Gary, Paul Smith and wife Vanessa and five great grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life Service will be held 10am, on January 29, 2026, at Harvest Hills Funeral Home with Glen Murray officiating.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

JAN **29**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Harvest Hills Funeral Home  
118 Second Street  
Hico, TX 76457  
(254) 796-4722  
info@harvesthillsfuneralhome.com  
<https://www.harvesthillsfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Harvest Hill Funeral Home created a Celebration of Life Services- Livestream Link in memory of Bessie L. Franssen



Harvest Hills Funeral Home - January 27 at 12:04 PM

LJ

“ Love: Dale, Lisa & Jenesis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bessie L. Franssen.

Love: Dale, Lisa & Jenesis - January 28 at 10:45 AM

LJ

“ Love: Dale, Lisa & Jenesis purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Bessie L. Franssen.



Love: Dale, Lisa & Jenesis - January 28 at 10:45 AM

TB

“ The Smith family Brothers&Sisters purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bessie L. Franssen.



The Smith family Brothers&Sisters - January 27 at 03:30 PM

PN

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



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**Paul Nielson** - January 26 at 08:47 PM

AN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**April Nielson** - January 26 at 06:33 PM

AS

*I worked with Lee at the Grand Island VA in the 1970's. I recalled her beautiful red hair! Wrote a long note on the GI Independent obituary page when I discovered her obit there. Hope you take time to read it. Very sorry for your loss. Ann (Hoelscher) Saur*

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**Ann Hoelscher Saur** - February 23 at 11:50 PM

AN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**April Nielson** - January 25 at 09:32 PM

PN

“ Always love spending time with her great grandbabies



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**Paul Nielson** - January 21 at 07:31 PM


PN

“ Beautiful and caring woman always cared about everybody before herself. Miss you, grandma.



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**Paul Nielson** - January 21 at 07:28 PM

 April  
Nielson

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**April Nielson** - January 21 at 01:29 PM