



## Janie Melms

April 23, 1966 - November 11, 2025

Janie Melms, 59, of Caledonia, passed away on November 11, 2025. Born April 23, 1966, in Rockford, she was the daughter of Richard and Justina (Perez) Gonzales Sr. A graduate of East High School, Class of 1984, Janie went on to earn her Licensed Practical Nursing degree from Rock Valley College. She dedicated more than 30 years of her life to caring for others as a nurse at Walter Lawson Children's Home, where her compassion and gentle heart touched countless lives.

Janie was united in marriage to Jason Melms on May 26, 2017. Together, they enjoyed spending quiet afternoons taking drives, simply enjoying each other's company and the beauty around them.

A creative soul, Janie was a talented paper crafter who loved making scrapbooks, photo collages, and keepsake photo books. Her creativity was matched by her warmth and generosity. She loved hosting holiday gatherings, making sure everyone felt welcome and included-if guests entered as strangers, they left feeling like part of her family.

Her greatest joy came from her children and grandchildren, who were truly the center of her world. Janie adored spending time with her "grandbabies," showering them with love and care. She was also an avid collector of Hello Kitty memorabilia-a lifelong fan with a fun and youthful spirit that brightened every room.

Those who knew Janie describe her as kind, loving, and without a bad bone in her body. She gave of herself freely and loved deeply. She loved her "fur

babies" Ozzy, BP and Mikey.

She is survived by her husband, Jason; children, Caitlin (Michaela Greenwalt) Staas, Taylor (Jake Dassow) Toseff, and Quincy Melms; grandchildren, Nova, Benny, Toulia, and Lyra; siblings, Mary (Ernie) Saavedra, Joe (Margie) Gonzales, and Roy Gonzales; sisters-in-law, Marion Gonzales and Jessica Pivett; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins; special friend, Mark Venades; and a circle of dear friends, near and far.

She was preceded in death by her first husband, Wayne Staas; father, Richard Gonzales Sr.; and brother, Richard Gonzales Jr.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Memorials in Janie's memory may be made to her family.

Grace Funeral & Cremation Services assisted the family. Share a memory or condolence at [www.graceFH.com](http://www.graceFH.com)

# Tribute Wall

GH

“ I’ve known Janie for 30 years. Over the years I could talk to her about anything. If something was bothering me she knew as soon as she saw me. She knew everything about me, and I’ll cherish our friendship forever. I will miss you so much, Janie. I love you! 💕💕

**Gary Huckstep** - December 04, 2025 at 08:22 PM

IO

“ Janie was a lovely human being she never had a bad word for anyone always smiling. She loved her babies at work. She was the most caring nurse always making sure her patients (her babies) were taking care of before she left.

**Irma ortiz** - November 19, 2025 at 11:59 PM

DB

“ I met Janie over 20 years ago at Walter Lawson. She had a wonderful and beautiful personality and smile that made you feel welcomed. Janie was not only a coworker but a true friend to have. I will miss her very much. Rest in Peace my Friend. May God continue to comfort and give peace to your Family. Love Denise

**Denise Beard** - November 19, 2025 at 08:55 AM

TD

“ The Day Training/CDS Department purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Janie Melms.



**The Day Training/CDS Department** - November 19, 2025 at 08:25 AM

DB

“ Denise B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Janie Melms.

Denise B. - November 19, 2025 at 08:13 AM

OF

“ Ortiz family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Janie Melms.



Ortiz family - November 19, 2025 at 12:45 AM

MV

“ Mary VanOver lit a candle in memory of Janie Melms



Mary VanOver - November 17, 2025 at 11:53 AM

MG

“ marian gonzales lit a candle in memory of Janie Melms



marian gonzales - November 17, 2025 at 10:51 AM

LF

“ *Janie had a great sense of humor. I worked with her at Lawsons for over 30 years and she was a very compassionate nurse. I love her smile and her handwriting was so neat . I am very grateful to have known her and worked with her. She was just an incredible person with a great deal of strength. She will be missed by me. May God bless her entire family. With much love, Lisa F.*

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**Lisa Ferro** - November 15, 2025 at 06:05 PM