



Barbara Ann Stearns

February 2, 1958 - June 9, 2024

Barbara “Barbie” Ann (Ochu) Stearns, 66, of Columbia Heights and Blaine, MN passed away in the midnight hour of June 9, 2024 after an incredibly hard fought battle with lung cancer.

Born to Gerald and Catherine Ochu on February 2, 1958, she attended Immaculate Conception Catholic School before graduating from Columbia Heights High School in 1976. She later went on to devote decades to leading a team at Lutheran Brotherhood, which became Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. This is where she met the love of her life, Ted, who serendipitously shares the exact same birthday as her, before spending the next 30 years in marriage together.

Barbie’s absolute highlight of her life was her family, which she committed to spoiling often. She was a proud and loving wife, mother to three boys, Travis, Tyler and Chad (40, 36 & 31), and was known as “Nana” to her two adorable grandsons, Leo and Franco (4 & 2) who gave her tremendous joy. No obstacle stood in her way from giving to those she loved, who always came first. Barbie had an infectious personality, an unmistakable laugh, and a heartwarming smile that was immediately apparent within the first few seconds of engaging with her. You could always rely on her to offer you wisdom, kindness, and unconditional love in a way that is so unique to find.

Some of Barbie's passions included interior design and decor, something she had a true talent for and was often met with compliments, shopping (for anything purple), and getting together with her beloved brother Bobby, and his adoring wife, Carmalee to cheer on the Vikings. She was known for having impeccable taste, a great sense of humor, and keeping a perfectly clean and organized household.

A service commemorating Barbie will be held at the Washburn-McReavy Hillside Chapel in Minneapolis on Friday, June 14. She will be missed beyond words.

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery (Minneapolis)

2600 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Chapel Service

JUN 14. 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel
2610 19th Avenue N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Graveside Service

JUN 14. 2:45 PM - 3:15 PM (CT)

Hillside Cemetery (Minneapolis)
2600 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Barbara Ann Stearns.* ”



June 13, 2024 at 10:35 PM