



## Carol Meyn Beese

December 17, 1930 - June 6, 2024

Carol Meyn Beese, age 93, of Edina, MN, formerly of Barrington, IL, passed away peacefully on June 6, 2024. Preceded in death by her parents Rudy and Lucile Meyn, and husband Ronald E. Beese, she is survived by her loving sister Suzanne Froberg, daughter Lorena Beese (Homme Hellinga) of Durham, NC, son Mark Beese (Karen) of Edina, MN, and grandchildren Carolyn Brewster (Danny), Kristin Gorge (Alec), Lauren Beese, and Robert Hellinga.

Carol was born on December 17, 1930, in Maywood, IL. She attended Proviso High School, DePauw University and Notre Dame University. She married Ron Beese on February 13, 1954, the love of her life. They moved to Barrington, IL in 1956 to begin their family.

Carol Beese was devoted to her family, bringing them together from across the country for singing, stories, and laughter every holiday season. Carol loved music, chocolate, the color red, leading adventures abroad, and family expeditions to National Parks. She brought joy with her wherever she went. She had a remarkable talent for knowing exactly what to say to make someone feel welcome, appreciated, and loved.

Carol also was devoted to her community in Barrington, Illinois. For 57 years she served on boards for numerous organizations including the Buehler

YMCA, William Rainey Harper College, Family Service of South Lake County, the Council on Aging, Barrington Area Arts Council, Barrington Park District, First Federal of Barrington, American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Barrington school district 220, and the Barrington Volunteer Bureau. Carol was also a beloved active member of the Barrington United Methodist church and Rotary Club. One of her biggest passions was shaping the development of Ron Beese Park, an 80 acre Barrington park named in honor of her late husband.

Carol acted as a role model paving the way for women looking to make a difference professionally in business and community service. She became the President and Executive Director of the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce and was one of the pioneering women in this field, at local, state and national levels. For 32 years, she guided the growth of the Barrington Chamber from 50 to 760 business and professional members. She was a director of the Illinois State Chamber, served on the Board of Regents for the U.S. Chamber Institute, and was a member of the U.S Chamber of Commerce Advisory Committee. In 1995 Carol was named Illinois chamber executive of the year. Upon her retirement, the Governor of the State of Illinois proclaimed December 8, 2000, to be CAROL BEESE DAY in Illinois. She received the Illinois Woman of Achievement Award in 2001.

Post-retirement Carol continued to be active in the community, serving on advisory boards and volunteering for Rotary projects. Carol moved to Edina, Minnesota in 2016 to be closer to family.

A Service of Remembrance will be held at Meetinghouse Church, 6200 Colonial Way, Edina, MN, Wednesday, June 26, 11 am.

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ Dear Carol, you are so well remembered by this, now, Barrington "Old timer". Your leadership and dedication to the community in years when it was growing so fast were tireless. You gave me so much support when I started working at the Historical Society in 1980, and I was always grateful for that. And from your perspective you were a lively and forthright community historian. Rest in Peace, and my heartfelt condolences to your family. Barbara L. Benson, June 25th, 2024

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**Barbara L, Benson** - June 25, 2024 at 11:14 AM

KG

“ To all Carol's dear family, I send my condolences at this sad time. My fondest memories of Carol are all the times we enjoyed music, her great love, together. Whether it was the years of Sunday afternoons spent at the symphony, or lovely summer evenings at Ravinia, Carol enjoyed every moment. We shared her second great interest, travel, with a trip to Russia which was sponsored by the Elgin Symphony Orchestra and included many fine musical performances. She was a fantastic travel partner. May beautiful music bring you comfort as you remember her. Love, Karen Goodwin

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**Karen Goodwin** - June 20, 2024 at 04:36 PM

LH

“ Dear Suzanne, Lorena, Mark, Family, and Friends, It was our privilege to provide care for Carol. Our hearts go out to you as we send our love.

*Your Friends at Little Hospice*

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**Little Hospice** - June 17, 2024 at 12:53 PM