



Carol Edith Kleven

March 12, 1930 - January 31, 2025

At the age of 94 years old, Carol Kleven went home to Heaven on the morning of January 31, 2025, with two of her granddaughters at her side. She had only one week with a wonderful hospice team. Carol was born March 12, 1930, to Art and Jenny Baker. Her siblings Gen, Corky, and little sister Marilyn, grew up in Southeast Minneapolis across from Tower Hill. Carol lived through the Depression and never had store-bought toys but did not feel deprived. Carol learned to make her own fun. She and her brother would take their red wagon, walk to the dump, and bring home many "treasures". One of their favorite finds was when they followed a bakery truck to the dump. The driver unloaded a large chunk of one of Carol's favorite candies: cinnamon buttons! The candy was too large and too heavy, as it had started to melt and harden. Determined to get the candy home, the pair threw rocks at their treasure to break it apart and they were finally able to load two large pieces of the candy into their wagon. This began Carol's lifelong love of sweets.

Carol's family moved to South Minneapolis where she attended Central High School. Not having a car, Carol walked, and she would start out an hour before classes began so she could meet up with friends along the way, sometimes running a bit late for class. Eventually, Carol made friends with a guy who had a car. This guy would take Carol and her friends to school. The guy, named Ed Kleven, later became Carol's husband in 1949. Carol and Ed raised their four children in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. Their family grew to

have many grandchildren. She loved being with children, teaching Sunday School and Awana, doing crafts with the kids, playing games, and giving out prizes. Her foundation throughout her life was her faith in Jesus Christ, her Lord and Savior. Carol and Ed suffered through cancer, and Carol became a widow at the age of 66.

While attending a grief support group, Carol met and fell in love with Jack Stetler, and they were married for 20 years. They enjoyed trips with friends, traveled to Europe, and wintered in Texas and Florida. Throughout their travels, Carol continued her passion of going to sales to "Search and Find" the just-right items to add to her vintage collectibles. In Brooklyn Center, Jack encouraged Carol to run for city council because she was so frustrated with the city's garage sale sign regulations; therefore, at the age of 80 years old, Carol went knocking on doors and gained the support of the community. Carol WON that election as City Council Member! Carol spent the next four years watching out for the citizens of Brooklyn Center. Jack passed away in 2017 and Carol again became a widow.

In 2020, after spending 66 years in Brooklyn Center, Carol moved to Cherrywood Pointe in Forest Lake, MN. Carol adored her Lifespark Community Caregivers, especially her nurse Kari and Dr. Nick who allowed her to live out her life independently these past four and a half years and maintain her active lifestyle. She participated in most events at Cherrywood Pointe, where she developed a passion for painting. In her spare time, Carol enjoyed spending time with her family and friends and doing crafts, games, and puzzles.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, Art and Jenny Baker, first husband Ed Kleven, second husband John "Jack" Stetler, sister Gen, and brother Corky. She is survived by her children, Ken (Diana) Kleven, Karen (Will) Engen, Karl (Jana) Kleven, and Kris (Tony) Mariette; 12 grandchildren

and 13 great-grandchildren; sister Marilyn; and her nieces and nephews.

A service celebrating Carol's life will be held Saturday, February 15, 2025, at Washburn-McReavy Glen Haven Chapel, 5125 West Broadway, Crystal, MN. Visitation will be held at 10:00; service at 11:00 AM with reception following at the chapel.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **15**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Memorial Service

FEB **15**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

Glen Haven Chapel
5125 West Broadway
Crystal, MN 55429

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for Carol Edith Kleven in memory of Carol Edith Kleven



Washburn-McReavy - February 05, 2025 at 11:14 AM

DS

What a privilege and a pleasure it was to know Carol. Joyful and selfless at every encounter, she lived life to the end. My sympathies to all who loved her. That smile will not fade fast. Dr Nick Schneeman

Dr Nick Schneeman - February 17, 2025 at 08:58 AM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Carol Edith Kleven.



February 14, 2025 at 11:21 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol Edith Kleven.

February 14, 2025 at 11:21 AM

BA

“ *Brooke Ackerman purchased the Pretty Please
for the family of Carol Edith Kleven.*



Brooke Ackerman - February 14, 2025 at 10:46 AM

SQ

“ Aunt Carol was my favorite aunt. I told her that. I had a kid crush on her from the earliest I remember (she was 17 years older than me). The first I can remember, she was a pretty, youthful, adult whose approach to life always seemed fresh and upbeat, with a range of interests that fascinated me.

All of that remained true, from my perspective, right up to now. And if she was no longer young, she certainly remained young at heart. We'd talk on the phone as adults, discussing northern Minnesota and our experiences on the lakes. When I became mayor of Richfield, not long after, she delighted me by running for city council and winning – on a “freedom for garage sale signs” platform, it seemed to me! We'd compare highs and lows about being elected public servants. I had been one of Richfield's youngest mayors. At 80, she might have been one of Brooklyn Centers more “seasoned” office holders?

When Lois and I moved from Richfield to a condo in Saint Paul, we took Carol touring her childhood neighborhood in Minneapolis. Just blocks from where we lived, we went by her elementary school, then drove down the hill to the commercial building that stands on the corner where her home once stood. She told me how her mother was not the hovering type. When Carol went off to school on her very first day, her mom just told her to go up the hill and go into the school. When she was finished for the day, she was to just come back down the hill. Trouble was, she came down the wrong street, down the hill and, oh no, her house was gone! A kind stranger found her in tears, figured it out and helped her reroute. I think I can figure out why Carol could always succeed on her own, at whatever she took on.

I remember also, growing up with visits to Carol and Ed, seeing some of our favorite cousins, and as a country preacher's kid, seeing how my self-confident city cousins lived.

I'll miss Aunt Carol. She always had something fresh to share, and I

loved her.

Steve Quam

Steve Quam - February 12, 2025 at 05:26 PM



“ *I have good memories of Ed and Carol - like carmel popcorn. They were always welcoming and fed us well. There is one memory, though, that is different than the rest. I was pregnant with our second child and we had arranged for Kris to care for our oldest, 2 year old Kyle, when it was time to deliver the baby. It was October 4th, Blases' birthday. He was out with a client and had called earlier in the day to see how I was doing. I was fine ... until later when I started feeling uncomfortabe. I was not going to have this baby on Blase's birthday, so I waited for the feeling to pass. It didn't. This was before cell phones and I couldn't reach Blase. I tried to find Kris and ended up calling Carol asking if she knew where Kris was. Her response, "Are you going to have that baby?" Well, maybe. I think I'll just drive to the hospital. Not sure what I was going to do with Kyle. Well, she wouldn't have that! Ed and Carol picked up Kyle and me and drove to the hospital. She came with me and Ed took care of Kyle. About a half hour after we arrived Richard was born -- with Carol by my side. I really don't know what happened later - they must have taken Kyle home with them. I wasn't worried about it -- it was Ed and Carol and I trusted them with my first born! I'm hoping Ed, Carol and Richard are having a special reunion in Heaven.*

She was a special lady and I know she will be missed.

Connie DesMarais

Connie DesMarais - February 11, 2025 at 03:48 PM

CF

“ *Chuck and Margo Kraft and family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Carol Edith Kleven.*



Chuck and Margo Kraft and family - February 07, 2025 at
10:31 AM