



Carol Jean Renstrom

December 11, 1942 - July 14, 2024

Carol Jean (Rykyto) Renstrom passed away July 14, 2024 at United Hospital after a long struggle with congestive heart failure and other related illnesses.

Carol was born to Henry and Mary Rykyto on December 11, 1942 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She grew up in a very tight-knit family, with her parents and grandparents all living in the same duplex. She was the first grandchild on her mother's (Lunzer) side and her uncles treated her like a little sister. In 1954, when Carol was 11, she was joined by her little sister Shirley.

Carol met Dean Renstrom while they were both visiting their parents' cabins near Luck, Wisconsin. Dean proposed at St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin and they were married on December 8, 1961. They settled first in Minneapolis and then in Roseville, eventually building a house on Mount Ridge Road, where they raised their two boys, Brian and Greg.

Carol and Dean enjoyed riding motorcycles, traveling to California to visit Carol's mom and stepfather for extended visits, and spending time with family and friends. They were members of St. Paul Escorts Motorcycle Club, where Carol rode her own motorcycle.

Dean passed away suddenly of a heart attack on December 26, 1988, leaving Carol a widow at the young age of 46. She mourned him the rest of her life. After Dean's death, Carol and her Aunt Cathy Lunzer became close friends as Cathy had also recently lost her husband Ed. Carol and Cathy traveled to Hawaii and Europe (among other places), became stock investors, and attended the Microsoft annual meeting together.

Carol had various jobs throughout the years, including working for Pillsbury, Dean's Towing, managing the Spur Station and finally working for Brian's company Central Trailer Sales until she retired. She and her son Greg owned and operated Earl's Pizza in Roseville for a few years in the 1990's and she insisted until she died that no pizza was as good as Earl's.

One highlight of Carol's life occurred in 2006 when her granddaughter Katie was born, making her a grandmother. Carol, Katie and Uncle Greg went on many adventures together in Katie's early years including balloon festivals, the Science Museum, beekeeping and gardening.

In her later years, Carol moved to Wyoming, MN to be near her family, settling in the townhouses on Garden Lane, where she made great friends. She enjoyed their card games every week and was sad to have to move into a senior apartment when her health declined.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents and her husband Dean.

She is survived by her sons Brian (Nan) of Shoreview and Greg (Liz) of Shafer, granddaughter Katie, sister Shirley Drake of Lucerne, California, several brothers and sisters-in-law, many nieces and nephews and her cat Oliver, who she called her "baby" and was most concerned about leaving at the end.

Visitation Tuesday July 23rd, 4-7PM at Washburn-McReavy Shoreview Chapel; 515 W. Hwy 96, Shoreview, MN.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL **23**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel
515 Highway 96 West
Shoreview, MN 55126

Tribute Wall

MR

“ My dear Carol was a friend. She was a beautiful soul. She was brilliant. She never ceased to amaze me. She could solve any problem. She could direct any repairs if she wasn't able to make them herself. We had many wonderful happy joyous times together. I miss her dearly and I always will. I loved you Carol. Rest in peace. May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

Marie Ryan - July 24, 2024 at 05:58 PM

JS

“ Jon S. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol Jean Renstrom.

Jon S. - July 23, 2024 at 05:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Renstrom.



July 22, 2024 at 05:02 PM

SD

“ Scott & Carol Douglas planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Carol Jean Renstrom.

Scott & Carol Douglas - July 22, 2024 at 05:02 PM

LS

“ Carol was a friend of mine when she lived at Cardigan Ridge. We had lots of fun chats and discussions. I had just seen her at Costco 2 weeks ago and I told her she was looking good. We had a nice visit there, too! She was an entertaining lady. My sympathies to her family. Bubby Schaber

lolita schaber - July 21, 2024 at 06:52 PM

CL

“ Carol was ‘my family’, via my marriage to her Uncle Ed. Our evening talks covered so many topics it never got boring for 35+ years. She was a math whiz getting me through formulas in Lotus and Excel at Hennepin Tech classes we took together; she was mechanical as in re-wiring a ceiling fan on one of our many vacations together (this one in Kauai); she could cook anything from scratch and tell me who couldn’t cook, what I was doing wrong; she was a stock guru who had ‘a feel’ for stock choice and timing; she was political; she was smart! But most of all, she was devoted to her two wonderful sons, Brian and Greg, who any mother would envy. And then as a bonus, there was Nan, Liz - and KATIE. Carol. I cannot replace you. Catherine Lunzer

catherine lunzer - July 18, 2024 at 11:40 PM

JP

“ I grew up with Carol Jean in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was my cousin and we shared many, many great memories. She was one of the best friends that I could ever have asked for. She was one of a kind and I'll miss her. Cousin Joe Pollack

Joseph G Pollack - July 18, 2024 at 05:43 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Renstrom.*



July 18, 2024 at 04:07 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Carol Jean Renstrom.*



July 18, 2024 at 03:44 PM