



Claire M King

June 23, 1940 - January 27, 2021

Age 80 of Shoreview

Claire passed away Wednesday, Jan. 27th, at home with her family.

Claire was born to Cleave and Mila Sorensen in Dubuque, Iowa, the oldest of four daughters. Her family soon moved to Falcon Heights, Minnesota, where she attended the Roseville School District, and first met her future husband, Lee, in fifth grade. Later, while attending Ramsey High School, they were assigned as partners on the debate team, reluctantly at first. However, they soon proved to be a very successful team as a pair, and became 5-state area debate champions for the school before they graduated together in 1958.

They married in 1961, started a family in the following years, and they remained together until Lee's passing 35 years later.

Claire was a trailblazer for women in the sport of springboard diving. Before there were very many available sports for girls in the schools, she won the state AAU championship for the first time when she was 17, and for the last time twenty years later, when she was 37. Claire was the coach for both the boys and girls diving teams for Ramsey / Roseville High School for over 20 years. Despite having to endure some prejudice as a female coach in the early years, Claire coached many divers who placed in the top 10 and top 5 of the Minnesota State High School Tournament. She was named Region Coach of the Year a number of times.

Claire was a smart, independent thinker, with a wry sense of humor. She was an English major at the University of Minnesota, and was an avid reader

throughout her life. She was also a talented pianist from a young age, and especially enjoyed playing the music of composer Edvard Grieg.

Claire was an active member at Presbyterian Church of the Way for many years. A word of appreciation is acknowledged for all who reached out to Claire over the years. A special Thank You is given to Pastors Dave Parker and Eugene Orr, who helped and encouraged through some of the most difficult times.

Claire was a wife, mother, and grandmother, who was greatly loved, and will be dearly missed. She was preceded in death by her parents; and her husband, Lee. She is survived by her 2 children, Eric N. and Karen L. King; her grandson, Brady L. King; her three sisters, Holly (Dan) Huntwork, Jane Sorensen Hodges, and Carla (Larry) Guthrie; and also many nieces, nephews, and friends.

Services will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

BE

“ Claire meant to world to meand many hundreds of divers. I dove 80-82' and on the summer teams. She attended church with my dad Dutch Elbers. One story - when I broke my leg skiing during the season in 1982, she was as devastated as I was. She came to my house with a huge bottle of calcium pills, gave me a hug and said we're starting recovery today. She lined me up with a psychiatrist friend who taught me to relax (I still use the skills I learned) visualize and dive in my head (she required 1-2 hours a day) I was diving again in 6 weeks and took 4th in State. Went on to dive in college at Eau Claire. Thanks to her. Will be missed greatly by me and the whole diving community. Please keep me updated on services.



Brad Elbers - February 03, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ Deepest condolences to the King family, Claire always had a smile for everyone she talked too. If everyone was as nice as Claire the world be a much better place, she will be missed, God bless, Carl and Stephanie Smith.

Carl Smith - February 02, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Sorry for your loss Eric and Karen. I always loved when you and your folks visited. They were fun and funny. Still have recipe for 'Claire's Spaghetti' that I got from mom. I used to make it a lot.

Daniel McMahon - January 31, 2021 at 12:00 AM