



## Colann Beth York German

October 18, 1952 - February 25, 2026

Most obituaries read like a timeline—a list of dates, locations, and names. But if you want to understand the actual truth of our mother's life, you won't find it in the public records. You will find it in us, her children.

She signed up for the most grueling, relentless, and profoundly beautiful job on the planet: she was our Mother. She didn't just raise us; she forged us. When the world was heavy, she absorbed the weight. When things were broken, she was the anchor. She sacrificed her own comfort, quieted her own fears, and built a wall of absolute safety around us so that we could figure out how to stand on our own.

After launching us into adulthood, she turned to her own career and accomplished her dream of becoming a Nurse. It was during that time she found the love of her life, Jim German. Together, after moving to Arizona, they found happiness and companionship while raising two mini schnauzer puppies, exploring National Parks, and just being that fun, goofy, semi-retired couple.

After helping her through the loss of Jim, she helped us navigate through our own midlife crises before moving back to Minnesota. From then she was able to have wild and crazy adventures around the area with her friends & family, hosted Amanda's wedding, took a handgun lesson, went indoor skydiving, and

fulfilled a bucket list dream by taking a trip with Paul to the Iditarod Sled Dog Race where she got to ride in a sled behind a team of dogs, fly in an Alaskan Bush plane, soak in a hot springs, and take in the Northern Lights.

This is not a standard notice of passing. This is a standing ovation from her children for a lifetime of work perfectly executed, a mission entirely accomplished, and a victory lap worthy of the effort.

Colann Beth York-German, age 73, of Minnetonka, MN, passed away on February 25, 2026, at home surrounded by her children.

She is survived by her children, Amanda Dige (Kelli) and Paul Dige; her step-children, Geoff German, Tara German (Michael), and Dylan German (Kyllynn); her seven grandchildren, Zoey, Warren, Wyatt, Logan, Carys, Saoirse, and Mina; her brother, Jerry York; her sister-in-law, Jane German; and many nephews, and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James German; her parents, Sidney and Clara York; and her brothers, Terry York and Thomas York.

Service Information A graveside service is planned for late May at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Canton, Illinois, where she will be laid to rest next to James. Details regarding the exact date and time will be shared by the family at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the American Cancer Society, the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's research, or the Schnauzer Rescue of Minnesota.

# Tribute Wall

HD

“ Prayers for your family. I knew from high school, she always had smiles. Thanks for sharing her life. Helen Fabian

Helen Fabian Delanoy - March 27 at 08:54 AM

JG

“ I still remember the Christmas in Wickenburg, AZ when all of Colann's and Jim's children were there. And we were asked to buy stocking stuffers for each person. What fun getting our favorite candies, yo-yos, socks, etc. And being grateful for all the meals and cookies Colann made and shared with us.

Jane German - March 03 at 04:42 PM

KP

Colann was a classmate of mine in Belt and I was so shocked and sorry to hear about her passing. She was a great friend and we had a wonderful time at our 50 year reunion back in 2021. May God Bless her and her beautiful family. ❤️🙏

Karen Pepos - March 31 at 05:59 PM

SG

“ Oleander was gutsy and adventurous. I'm happy for her that she was able to try so many challenging adventures. She was over the moon about Alaska and the Iditarod and grateful for Paul for helping it to happen. We were honored to be her friend.

Sharon Grimes - March 02 at 02:34 PM

SG

Colann, that is. Sorry for missing the bad auto correct.

Sharon Grimes - March 02 at 03:07 PM