



Dena C. Karigan

January 13, 1931 - April 15, 2025

Edina - Karigan, Dena passed away peacefully on April 15th, 2025. She was born and raised in Athens, Greece and moved to the U.S. with her family after WWII. After graduating high school, she attended Patricia Stevens Finishing School where she became a fashion model, and later became an instructor. She was also employed by Harold's as a live model in their window displays on the Nicollet Mall. She was selected to be a Minneapolis Aquatennial Princess and also modeled alongside Liberace as he performed on stage. At a church dance, she met the love of her life, Jim, who asked her to marry him on the first date. They were married for 62 years, and together they joyfully raised their three children, Andrew, Pamela, and Nadine. Later, Dena went back to pursue her interest in fashion and leveraged her European style at Rodier and Gucci to become one of their top salespeople. Dena and her family loved to travel and saw much of the world together. She was also an accomplished tennis player and gourmet cook, who loved to entertain. Dena was an amazing grandmother. She was incredibly close to her four grandchildren and held a strong bond with each of them. They are forever grateful for the endless amount of love, care, and guidance she provided. It was so important to her that she had a strong influence in their lives. Dena had a full and happy life due to her deep faith, loving family, eternal optimism, and always finding the good in everything and everyone. She was sympathetic and kind - a friend to all. She will forever be remembered for her sharp mind, her wisdom, her sense of humor, her loving spirit, her generosity,

her zest for life, and her strength. Preceded in death by her parents, Nickolas & Arta Sperides; her brother, Spiro; her husband, James, and their beloved son, Andrew. She is survived by her daughters, Pamela (Jerry) Nelson, and Nadine (Gary) Barber; grandchildren, Andrew & Nicolette Bodine, and James & Nicholas Nelson (fiancee Erin); and her wonderful caregiver and friend, Violet Anunciacion, along with many other friends and relatives. Visitation 5-7pm Monday, April 21 at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel, 5000 West 50th Street, Edina. Funeral Service 11am Tuesday, April 22 at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN with a luncheon to follow. Memorials preferred to St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church.

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)

3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Funeral Service

APR 22. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Dena C. Karigan.*



April 21, 2025 at 01:30 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dena C. Karigan.

April 21, 2025 at 01:30 PM



“ A grove of 10 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dena C. Karigan.

April 21, 2025 at 06:15 AM



“ *Dena was a lovely person and friend, memory eternal Judy Babcock*

Judy Babcock - April 20, 2025 at 10:00 PM

SA

“ *Nadine and Pam, I was just informed of the sad news. My sincerest condolences to you and your families over the passing of your mother. Also belated condolences over the passing of your father and brother. Your family was always great to me when I lived in the Twin Cities which I will always be grateful for. I had a chance to visit with Dena and Pam several years back when I attended a service at St. Mary's and it was if our relationship never missed a beat. Again sincerest condolences to the family and may their memories be eternal.*

Steve Assimos

steve assimos - April 20, 2025 at 02:47 PM

TB

*She will always share a special place in my heart
She was always so elegant
Always so beautiful
Such a kind person
She embraced her family with unconditional love
And she always welcomed me with open arms
Such a fascinating bright beam of light
I am so very sorry for the loss of your cherished mom*

Tracy Bains - April 25, 2025 at 05:54 AM