



Esther Noel

March 28, 1934 - August 22, 2022

Noel, Esther Lena (Sunderman) age 88, passed into Heaven on Aug. 22, 2022 at 7:30 pm at Collier County hospital. Esther was hospitalized for a fall she experienced three days earlier, while a resident of Arden Courts in Naples, FL. Esther was born March 28, 1934 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota to Margaret and Carroll Huff. Esther was raised, along with her siblings, Darlene and Dennis, in Sioux Falls by her mother and stepfather, Rudy Sunderman, after her biological father passed away when she was four. While young, Esther and her family were dedicated members of the Salvation Army Church. It was through singing opportunities at her church that Esther developed her extraordinarily beautiful voice. Singing brought Esther and her listeners great joy. Esther's commitment to faith, family, music, and to those she loves, began early in her life and continued until her last breath. Esther graduated from Washington High School in 1953. With Esther's musical talent, beauty, and outgoing personality, she flourished in high school and developed lifelong friendships. Esther was a dynamo and quite accomplished at Washington High. She was selected as Freshman of the Year, a Class Officer her junior year, and a cheerleader for all sports her last two years. During her junior and senior high school years, Esther was one of the top performing voices in the elite Concert Choir, where she sang solos, and she was selected to sing in ensembles, competitions, and other musical achievements. Despite her very large graduating class, Esther was elected as one of four Homecoming Queen candidates during her senior year. At the University of South Dakota, Esther

continued to thrive. She was a member of the Alpha Phi sorority. She participated in many musical activities. Esther was one of the stars in the USD major musical production, "Strollers," where she sang, "C'est Si Bon," to much acclaim. Esther was thrilled to attend one year of college. A highlight for Esther was being nominated and crowned Miss University of South Dakota; she thoroughly enjoyed participating in the Miss South Dakota pageant. In the summer of 1953, Esther became acquainted with her soon-to-be husband, Kenneth D. Noel, a student at USD and Sioux Falls resident. Their first date was attending a dance where Louis Armstrong's touring band was performing. It was the start of a wonderful love story, and they were married on January 29, 1955. They were married for almost 68 years. Upon Ken's graduation from USD, Esther moved to Fort Knox, Kentucky with Ken, as he fulfilled his ROTC commitment and served as an Army Officer. Esther was an exemplary Officer's wife. In 1959, after completion of Ken's Army obligation, Ken and Esther moved to the Twin Cities. They later settled in Eden Prairie, Minnesota where Ken and Esther spent the next 46 years, until their retirement to Naples, FL. Esther was a loving and doting mom to her three children. She also loved and adored her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her signature effervescent smile & joy were contagious and enjoyed by all of Esther's loved ones. Esther was involved in her community, church, and children's school activities. Esther excelled in the clothing and retail industry. Esther's beauty and engaging manner enabled her to work as a model in Minneapolis and in New York City. Esther was very successful in retail sales, where she also served as a buyer and in management for women's clothing stores. As Ken's work responsibilities increased, Esther supported Ken's career at every turn. Esther was the Queen of entertainment and executed the requisite social activities with aplomb and grace. During Ken's tenure as President and COO of Community Credit Company, Esther was every bit his equal in managing the various social engagements and extensive travels throughout the United States. For over 50 years, Esther and Ken have been active and generous members in the Eden Prairie Methodist Church. Esther

was a Sunday School teacher, the Sunday School Superintendent for many years, and she was actively involved in church leadership. Additionally, Esther was a lead soloist, singing for countless funerals, weddings, and other special musical events. Esther and Ken have shared a wonderful life together, as one another's soul mates. They especially enjoyed traveling and cruising throughout Europe during their retirement years. Esther was preceded in death by her parents and her sister. She is survived by her loving husband, Ken, daughters Deb (Rick) Karulf, and Sue Noel, son, Brad (Tara) Noel, and grandchildren Erik (Mandi) Karulf; Mike (Jenna) Potter, Justin (Amanda) Potter, Matt (Tara) Potter, and Morgan Potter; Adam (Michelle) Noel, Sami Noel (Chris Gipple), Alan (Maddison) Noel, and nine great-grandchildren: Owen & Zeli Karulf, Andrew & Thomas Potter, Lily & Allison Potter, Bradley, Cole & Olivia Noel, her brother, Dennis (Karen) Sunderman, and many other beloved relatives and friends. Funeral services will be held September 9, 2022 at 11:00 am at the Eden Prairie United Methodist Church, 15050 Scenic Heights Road. Visitation will be at 10:00 am, one hour prior to the church service. Interment will follow the service, at the Eden Prairie Cemetery, 8810 Eden Prairie Road. A luncheon will follow at the church. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to: The Alzheimer's Support Network, 1421 Pine Ridge Road, Suite 100, Naples, FL, 34109.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 9. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Eden Prairie United Methodist Church
15050 Scenic Heights Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55436

Church Service

SEP 9. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Eden Prairie United Methodist Church
15050 Scenic Heights Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55436

Graveside Service

SEP 9. 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM (CT)

Eden Prairie Cemetery
8810 Eden Prairie Road
Eden Prairie, MN 55347