



Jean Marie McSwiggen

September 2, 1924 - February 20, 2021

McSwiggen, Jean Earley

Age 96, died peacefully in her own apartment, February 20, 2021 in Hopkins, Minnesota.

Funny, smart, patient, loving, and yet iron-willed; Jean always had a smile ready for both family and strangers. She was born on September 2, 1924 in International Falls, Minnesota, to Paul and Mary Earley (née Wharrie). Sixth of eight children, she was raised on the family farm in International Falls. She joined the US Navy WAVES program in 1944-1946 to work in Philadelphia tracking the location of supply ships. Thanks to the GI Bill, she attended the University of Minnesota. There she met her future husband, John McSwiggen, who was also a student on the GI Bill. In 1948 they married and together they raised eight children. She managed to return to the University in 1974, at age 50, to finish her bachelor's degree in Political Science.

Jean engaged in numerous volunteer activities throughout her years. She was an active member and volunteer at Glen Lake's Immaculate Heart of Mary Church from its inception, and she led a Great Books program for many years. For 17 years Jean was co-leader, along with her husband John, of the Glen Lake Explorers 4-H club. The club had numerous adventures, including canoeing as well as summer and winter camping. In her later years she knitted dozens of winter hats and scarves per year that she then donated to local homeless shelters. Perhaps her most notable volunteer work was co-

leading for 34 years the "Over 50 and Fit" exercise program at the Minnetonka Community Center. She stepped down from that role in 2018, at age 94, so that she could care for her husband, John, in his final days.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband, John; her parents; her sisters and brothers, Margaret (George) Bruggeman, Isabel Earley, Bernard (Elvira) Earley, Ruth Earley, Robert (Marion) Earley, Eugene (June) Earley, and Jack (Colleen) Earley.

Jean is survived by her daughter Margaret (Daniel Carr), sons John (Patricia Drexler), Michael (Jackie Richens), Peter (Barbara Meier), James (JoAnne Trombley), Patrick (Tara Smith), Robert (LuAnn), David (Crystal Lundy); nine grandchildren and four great grandchildren; plus numerous wonderful nieces and nephews.

Funeral services and a memorial will be held sometime in the Fall of 2021 after the COVID pandemic is more under control.

Memorial contributions may be made to charities that aid the poor and promote social justice-specifically Amnesty International, Doctors without Borders, Heifer International and the Network Education Program.

www.Washburn-McReavy.com

Hopkins Chapel 952-938-9020