



## Joyce Eileen Scanlan

October 19, 1935 - December 29, 2020

Scanlan, Joyce Eileen A heroic champion for the blind; passed away peacefully in her sleep December 29, 2020 at the age of 85. Joyce was born in Fargo, North Dakota and graduated from the University of North Dakota in 1957. She spent her life fighting for the right of blind people to be in charge of their own lives and treated with respect. Joyce was active in the National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota since 1970 and served as its President from 1973 to 2007. During that time, she also served on numerous government boards regarding blindness. Joyce was a leader in educating the legislature and Congress on improvement of laws and services for the blind. She was a recognized expert on blindness and authored numerous articles about blindness and spoke a positive message around the country. Joyce was the major force behind addition of disabilities to the Minnesota Human Rights Act, and a Minnesota Braille Bill requiring teaching braille in public schools. She was the force behind moving State Services for the Blind from the Department of Public Welfare to the Department of Jobs and Training. She was a member of the National Board of directors of the National Federation of the Blind from 1974 to 2004 and served as Secretary and 1st Vice President. Joyce established and served as the Executive Director of Blindness: Learning in New Dimensions (BLIND), Incorporated. Joyce was at the helm of this organization from its founding in 1986 through her retirement in 2003. Joyce was an advocate for individuals as well, assisting them to hold systems and entities accountable and just in their treatment of the blind. Joyce and her

husband of 46 years, Tom, worked as a team and helped establish historic and powerful changes to the systems that affect the blind community. Joyce will be remembered for her calm demeanor, her tenacity, her great laugh, and her ability to make positive changes in the world. She is survived by her husband, Tom Scanlan; sister, Marilyn Calvert; brother, Ken Hoffa; and numerous nieces and nephews. Joyce was preceded in death by her brother, Alan Hoffa and her sister, Patricia Romans. Due to the pandemic, arrangements will be announced sometime in the future. Memorials to be sent to the National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota. Washburn-McReavy.com  
Davies Chapel 612-377-2203