



Julienne Ann Weigher

February 20, 1948

Julienne Weigher, 72, One of the World's First Kidney Transplants; a 57-Year Survivor

Julienne Weigher, one of the first successful kidney transplant survivors in the world, died February 5, in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. She was 72. Born in Grand Forks, North Dakota on February 20, 1948 as the youngest of seven children, Julienne developed kidney disease at age 14. After an extended illness, local government officials arranged for her transport, along with her mother Evelyn, from the U.S. Air Force Base in Grand Forks to Richmond, Virginia where Doctor David Hume performed the operation, considered experimental at that time. The kidney was donated by her mother. Richmond was one of the three cities in the United States performing the controversial surgery in 1963.

Julienne and her mother remained in Richmond until June 1964 while doctors continued to monitor her progress. She attended Cathedral Central High School there. She returned to Grand Forks, then relocated to Minneapolis for continued medical follow-up, graduating from St. Anthony of Padua High School in 1967. She then attended the University of Minnesota where she received a B.A. in Social Work. While attending the University, she became the first female security guard at the Minnesota State Capitol, working there from 1971 to 1973. After her college graduation, she was employed as a Principal Financial Worker in the Hennepin County Economic Assistance

Department until 1979.

Julienne returned to the University of Minnesota where she received a B.S. in Occupational Therapy. She was employed as an O.T. for 28 years working in the fields of pediatrics, homecare, occupational health and development, and physical disabilities. She was very active in the Minnesota Occupational Therapy Association. Julienne worked at several Twin Cities facilities and ended her career as an O.T. at Sister Kenney United Hospital in St. Paul in 2012.

In 2000, Julienne received her second kidney transplant at Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis. It was donated by her brother Everett Weighter.

Julienne married John Goggin in Minneapolis in 1973. Their daughter Alycia Goggin-Weighter was born in 1977.

Julienne was a life-long lover of animals, especially dogs and cats. Over her lifetime she adopted many rescue animals. Fancy, her current dog, is a rescue animal from a puppy mill.

Julienne's parents Edmund F. Weighter and Evelyn A. (Ronkowski) Weighter are deceased. Survivors include her husband John, daughter Alycia (Brandon Tibbetts), grand-daughter Evelyn, step-daughter Jennifer (Eric Fowler), grandsons Drew and Cole, siblings Everett Weighter of Brookings, Oregon, Nerus Weighter of Bellingham, Washington, James Weighter of Everett, Washington, and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials should be sent to: Grey Face Rescue and Retirement
7316 Ridgewood Road
St. Cloud, MN 56303

At a further time a memorial service celebrating Julienne's life will be held at St. Joan of Arc Church. Interment will be held in the St. Joan of Arc Memorial Garden.

Tribute Wall

BS

“ Julie was an amazing OT colleague and friend during the years we worked together at United Hospital. She had so much OT knowledge to share. She was a leader and mentor to all. She was kind and supportive. I enjoyed sewing, making quilts and music events with Julie.

I am sorry to hear of her passing. Family was so important to her. Memories will keep her close to you.

Barb Schmiesing

Barb Schmiesing - February 21, 2021 at 06:52 PM

BO

“ Have many great memories of working with Julie at United. She was generous with her knowledge of OT stuff, had an infectious laugh, a sympathetic ear and a good sense of humor. I also enjoyed our shared interest in quilting as well as other crafts. Sorry we lost track of each other these last years. May she rest in peace

Bobbi Moody

bobbi - February 18, 2021 at 05:10 PM

MN

Couldn't agree more! She was a real mentor to me when I returned to practice after being out of the field for several years. She was of the highest caliber in her profession and delivered services in a truly caring manner. She brought so much to many and will be missed.

Marianne rose nowicki - February 19, 2021 at 02:04 PM

KS

“ We were so very sorry to hear about Julie's passing. Our family has nothing but beautiful, warm thoughts of Julie. As you may know, Julie was Ray's and mine flower girl. Oh how pretty and beautiful she was then as well as though out her life. What an intelligent, kind and religious person Julie was. We believe Julie is not only in peace but in heaven looking down and caring for all of us. Our whole family sends our love, prayers and condolences.

Mary Ronkowski and her family: Keith, Kevin, Kathleen, Karen, and Kristi https://www.washburn-mcreavy.com/store/?icn=desktop_tribute_wall_tab_top_link

Kathleen Schweitzer - February 11, 2021 at 12:02 PM

KW

Dear Mary Ann and all the cousins "K". Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers. You refreshed my memory of your 1950 wedding day and our sister Julie. She was indeed a playful, lovable 2 year old flower girl. Julie especially loved the wedding dance and music. From another "K", Kenneth W.

kenneth w - February 14, 2021 at 09:47 AM

KW

“ I have many fond childhood memories of my sister Julienne. She was a bouncy joyful young girl. Over the following years, I recall Julie being very strong and courageous. After a long suffering illness, Julie is now at peace. I hope Julie's peace comforts her loved family and kind caregivers .My family sends our love and prayers. Julienne's brother, February 2021
Kenneth W.



kenneth w - February 10, 2021 at 10:20 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Julie*



infor - February 08, 2021 at 07:40 AM



“ 0 file added to the tribute wall

Masters of Scheduling Washburn-McReavy - February 07, 2021 at 02:19 PM