



## Kate Nellie Eckman

July 10, 1921 - May 9, 2026

Kate Nellie Eckman (Björnsson), 104, of Saint Anthony, died May 9, 2026. She was born on July 10, 1921 to Manda Teresa Wiklund and Karl Axel Björnsson in Hagfors, Varmland, Sweden, immigrating to Minnesota as a child. She was a proud graduate of Edison High School (class of '39). She married USN MMII Donald Charles Eckman on June 14, 1943. They had three children, Karlyn (Mary), Marilyn (Mike) Zandlo, and Mary (Brian) Kendall. She worked in the Garden Seeds department at Northrup King and Company until her retirement in 1976.

Nellie was a fashionista who loved bling, shopping, "Club" parties and the Minnesota Vikings. She moved to Chandler Place Independent Living in 2018 where she made many friends, enjoying Bingo and Happy Hour. She reveled in "smack talk" and competitive board games. Heartiest thanks to the Chandler residents and staff, especially Scott, Becky, Sue, Kathie, Debby, Precious and so many others who cared for her. Thanks also to Dr. David King (Minnesota Oncology) and Nurses Jane and Riley at Unity Hospital.

Nellie is survived by her children Karlyn Eckman (Mary), Marilyn (Mike) Zandlo, Mary Jo (Brian) Kendall, grandchildren Travis (Amanda), Andrew, Casey (Matt) Nilsson, Josh (Amanda) Kendall, great grandchildren Nathan, Joe, Riley, and Caitlyn Zandlo, Brielle and Weston Nilsson, nieces and nephews, cousins, and extended family in the US and Sweden. She was

preceded in death by her husband Don, parents, and beloved cousins Florence and Larry.

Donations to American Cancer Society, nurses staff at Unity, or Chandler Place activities programs. Make a toast with Mom's favorite beverage (Bailey's, a grasshopper, or diet root beer) and be kind to everyone you meet.

Memorial service 11:00 AM Thursday, May 21 with visitation one hour prior at:  
[www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com)  
Hillside Chapel 612-781-1999  
2610 19th Ave NE, Mpls

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 21. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Hillside Chapel  
2610 19th Avenue N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

## Memorial Service

MAY 21. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Hillside Chapel  
2610 19th Avenue N.E.  
Minneapolis, MN 55418

# Tribute Wall

DL

“ I was always impressed by Nellie’s genuine interest in everyone she spoke to. She always remembered your children and grandchildren’s name, and liked to hear what everyone was up to. Also, I still laugh thinking about how she loved to shop and socialize . She was an inspiration.

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**Deb Lavoie** - May 16 at 09:23 AM

VK

I vividly remember remember her while in brownies with Karlyn. I thought she was such a cool lady. The epitome of the 50’s mom! Their home was so cool too! God bless Karlyn.  
Val Knudson (Comstock)❤️

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**valerie knudson** - May 23 at 06:35 PM