



Kathleen Ann Junek

August 20, 1948 - June 5, 2024

Junek, Kathleen Ann of St. Louis Park, Minnesota passed away on June 5th, 2024. Born to Ruth and Daniel McPherson in Lincoln, Nebraska in 1948, she graduated from Orono High School and earned her bachelor's degree in Finance in three years from Macalester College. In her twenties, she helped navigate Schaak Electronics through bankruptcy, an experience that helped earn her a place at Stanford University Business School. After receiving her MBA, she worked for American Express International Bank where she managed offices in Italy and Hong Kong, and participated in developing one of the first computerized banking systems. At American Express she met John whom she married in 1982. She went on to start a computer-skills training business called EMPEP, an acronym consisting of the first letters of her children's names. Subsequently, she went back to school, first to Luther Seminary where she earned an MDiv in Old Testament Studies, and then to William Mitchell College of Law where she earned her JD. After retiring as a public defender in Anoka County, she spent her time supporting a number of Twin Cities civic and cultural organizations, sitting on the boards of the ACLU of Minnesota and the Minnesota Orchestra. Despite her outstanding professional accomplishments, her most enduring legacy is as a matriarch of a large and loving family. She is survived by her husband, John, her brother Verne, her children Evan (Peiling), Mark (Nick), Paul (Jacky), Emily Raspante (Patrick), and Peter (Kallista), and her grandchildren, Edison, Madilyn, Ella, Ian, Callie, Gia, Lillian, Lena, and Verity. She was a force: a savvy

businesswoman, a skillful advocate, a loving mother, a doting grandmother, a devoted wife and a fabulous life-partner. She will be dearly missed. She will be interred in a private ceremony at Lakewood Cemetery. A celebration of her life will take place at a future date. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Kathleen A. Junek Scholarship at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. Washburn-McReavy.com Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)

3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathleen Ann Junek.*



June 10, 2024 at 02:50 PM



“ *The Broners and The Dehlers planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen Ann Junek.*

The Broners and The Dehlers - June 10, 2024 at 02:50 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the Junek family. I had never met Kathy but I am in awe of her accomplishments and her amazing children. Much love to all especially Mark.*

Angela Dow - June 10, 2024 at 01:04 PM

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“Kathy was a fastidious and compassionate advocate for her clients. As public defenders, people often ask us how we could possibly defend “those people.” To take it as a calling in her sixties? She was an exceptional human. Our office was better for her time with us. And I so wish she got to galavant into her nineties. I don’t doubt that she gobbled up all her time here. And I’m sure her legacy of compassion and living her values continues through the lives of her children. Thank you for sharing her with us.

- Laurel O’Rourke

Laurel O’Rourke - June 10, 2024 at 12:39 PM