



Kathleen VanderWal Kaz

October 1, 1958 - April 25, 2025

Kathleen "Kathy" Joy Kaz (née VanderWal), 66, of Burnsville MN, passed away on April 25, 2025 at home in the arms of her devoted husband John.

Born on October 1, 1958, in Pipestone, MN to Fred and Henrietta VanderWal, Kathy attended Pipestone Area High School, working at Dairy King and graduating in 1976. After high school, she attended Mankato State University, graduating in 1980 with a degree in Business.

Directly after college graduation, Kathy relocated to Rochester, MN to begin a career at Dayton's Department Store. Dedicated and hardworking, during her four years in Rochester, Kathy was promoted through a variety of positions. Eventually, she was promoted to work at Dayton's corporate office, requiring her relocation to the Twin Cities in 1984. She would remain with the company until 2008. During her time there, she met a diverse group of wonderful people, many of whom became life-long friends.

In 1992, she would meet the love of her life, John Kaz, the man whom she would marry in a beautiful ceremony on September 14, 1996. Kathy and John moved to Burnsville to start their life together.

In 2008, after working for Dayton's - then Macy's - for nearly thirty years, Kathy left her position with the company. Shortly afterward, she partnered with

her husband John at his Insurance Agency. Due to their commitment and hard work, the two were nationally recognized within their organization and earned multiple trips, including trips to Italy and Spain. The two worked together until selling their agency and retiring on December 31, 2023.

During their thirty-three years together, John and Kathy enjoyed spending quality time together. Kathy also found joy spending time with her nieces Angela, Cassandra, and Michele. In downtimes, she enjoyed the peacefulness of watching movies, television series and traveling to visit family and friends. Additionally, she supported John's passion for softball, spending many years as John's devoted fan. Kathy also cherished her beloved cat, Hannah.

She was preceded in death by her father, Frederick VanderWal, her mother, Henrietta VanderWal, and her brother Donovan VanderWal. She is survived by her beloved husband John, her sisters Cynthia Prange of Faribault, MN, and Krystal (Bob) Grooters of Raleigh, NC. She is also survived by many loving in-laws, nieces, and nephews.

Celebration of Life Service will be held on Friday, May 16, 2025 at 1 pm at Christ Presbyterian Church, 6901 Normandale Road, Edina, MN.

In lieu of flowers, please consider memorials to the organizations of your choice.

Washburn - McReavy, Funeral Chapel 952-920-3996

Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.*



May 14, 2025 at 06:51 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.

May 14, 2025 at 06:51 PM



“ *The Pipestone High School Class of 1976 fondly remembers Kathy and has made a donation to the Pipestone Area Community Foundation in her name.*

Dawn Schneider - May 14, 2025 at 05:12 PM



“ *Brandyn Hansen & Beth Aza purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.*



Brandyn Hansen & Beth Aza - May 14, 2025 at 12:44 PM

BA

“ *Brandyn Hansen & Beth Aza planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.*

Brandyn Hansen & Beth Aza - May 14, 2025 at 12:44 PM

KB

“ *My heart goes out to you John. It was always a pleasure to talk to both of you. Kathy was always so sweet. I'm so sorry for your loss.*

□

Kim Byrne - May 13, 2025 at 12:32 PM

 Deb
Vieiralves

“ *I had the privilege of working with Kathy in the buying office of Dayton's. She was one of my soundboards when we were taking cosmetics from being run off of count books to automatic replenishment. She kept me sane during this transition. I will miss her larger than life smile and her incredible kindness. She will be very missed by many of us who had the privilege of working with her. John, I am so very, very sorry for your loss. She was one in a million. My deepest sympathy to you and all of her family.*

Deb Vieiralves

Deb Vieiralves - May 12, 2025 at 11:58 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.*



May 12, 2025 at 11:27 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.

May 12, 2025 at 11:27 AM



“ John- we are so sorry to hear about Kathy's passing. We enjoyed every conference we spent with both of you, every conversation we ever had, and just loved watching your love for each other. Please know we are sending you all the love and hugs across the miles!
XOXO Suzanne and Bob Nowak

Suzanne Nowak - May 09, 2025 at 08:50 PM



“ Aaron W. purchased the Sweet Sincerity for the family of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.



Aaron W. - May 06, 2025 at 10:07 AM



“ Aaron W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.

Aaron W. - May 06, 2025 at 10:07 AM

LK

“ Love, Dan & Claire Kasteler purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.



Love, Dan & Claire Kasteler - May 02, 2025 at 03:30 PM

TM

“ I remember those write-off days! Some of the best times I've had and with some of the best people! So sorry for your loss!

Tom Monson - May 02, 2025 at 02:08 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.



May 02, 2025 at 11:19 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.

May 02, 2025 at 11:19 AM

FD

“ Farmers Insurance - D54 purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Kathleen VanderWal Kaz.



Farmers Insurance - D54 - May 02, 2025 at 10:01 AM

PS

“ What can I say about Kathy.. she was an amazing women and I loved her like crazy.. finest memories was when we watched softball for many years called the write offs.. the best times ever and then the write off golf outings.. where we sat and talked while the boys played golf.. she will be so missed by so many❤️❤️

pattie Sims - May 01, 2025 at 04:55 PM

CN

“ I worked with Kathy in Rochester and Mpls we had many good times. She was a wonderful lady and will be missed by many, prayers for her husband and family.

clyde nelson - April 30, 2025 at 04:24 PM