



Kathleen Marie Lord Thorson

July 9, 1942 - November 19, 2019

Kathleen Marie Lord Thorson

Age 77 of Excelsior, formerly of Shoreview, MN

Died November 19, 2019

Preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Ruth Lord; grandson, Samuel; sister, Janis.

Survived by her husband of 54 years, Phillip; children, Andrea (Jim) Turnquist and Tim (Alyson); grandchildren, Alaina, Carly, Abigail, Tori, Lydia, Tomas, Nina, Eli and JP; and brother, Frank Lord Jr. Loved by many cousins, nieces, nephews, foster children, and friends who became her family.

Kathy's joy, laughter and love were contagious and a gift to all who knew her. She was smart as a whip and had a quick wit, yet she was always willing to be the target of a joke. A competitor at heart, whether in a game of tennis, bridge or speed solitaire, she hated to lose. She loved a good bargain and could not pass a garage sale without stopping. Her favorite place in the world was Big Bear Lake, and her favorite people were usually there with her. Growing up a California girl, she hated MN winters but loved her MN life. She said that she loved Phil enough to live in Minnesota AND become a Lutheran. Family and friends were her focus, always looking to care for others above herself. Hospitality was her gift and she used it often and well, entertaining and welcoming people into her home. Some stayed for a few hours, others for months or years. She held a special place in her heart and made room in her home for people in need. She was a "mother/nana by love" to many more

people than listed. Her work as a Ramsey County social worker was another way to help people, and her colleagues there became lifelong friends. Kathy was always the loudest fan in the crowd, cheering for her kids, grandkids, and sometimes their opponents by mistake! She rarely missed an event that was important to them. We will miss so much about her, and our loss is great, but our overwhelming emotion is gratitude for the gift we were given in knowing and loving Kathy. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness, gratitude and service to others which we can only aspire to follow.

Visitation 4-8PM Monday, Nov. 25 at HOLCOMB-HENRY-BOOM-PURCELL, 515 Hwy 96 W., Shoreview.

Memorial service 1PM Tuesday, Nov. 26 (visitation begins at 12 Noon) at INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH, 4880 Hodgson Rd., Shoreview.

In lieu of flowers, memorials preferred to Alzheimer's Association, Friends of FANA MN or Augustana Open Circle of Hopkins.

Tribute Wall

KK

“ Phil,

I am sorry to hear of Kathy's passing last November. Kathy was truly a joy to work with and I will never forget her. Every session she would have me and the others rolling with laughter. One of my favorite moments during the study Kathy had all of us laughing (me, the driver, and the other participants) and she all of a sudden let out a very content sigh and said to me, "I think we'll laugh in heaven." I think about that moment often. I hope you are able to find laughter just as Kathy always did.

Kaitlin (U of MN study)

Kaitlin Kelly - September 04, 2020 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ *Kathy made us feel so loved. Her stories and contagious laughter will be truly missed. The Thomsons are an amazing family and we are honored to be a part of their people. Bruce and Eve*



Bruce and Eve Turnquist - November 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ *Andrea, Jim and girls. My heart. breaks for all of you as you grieve Kathys loss. She was such a happy vibrant lady. My condolences to all of you and your dad.*

Paula Maniec - November 24, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ We will miss Kathy. She was a bright light in this world. Her laugh defined her. Kathy was a great neighbor and loved the kids on the block. Her gum ball machine was never empty and the kids all knew it! Love and hugs to the Thorson family.

John and Lynda Miller - November 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DW

“ Dearest Thorson family- My thoughts are full of happy memories of my childhood of Kathy at the end of the block on Cumberland Court providing games, snacks, and friendship even though her kids were older than me and my siblings. A house full of love and sharing. Thanks for being such a great neighbor even in the eyes of a kid. Thinking of you all.

Deb Miller Wynia - November 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

LB

“ It was the summer of 1955 and I would be soon entering kindergarten. The Lord's came up from Alhambra CA for a visit. I remember Uncle Frank, Aunt Ruth, Kathy and several others at Grandma Ragsdale's home. I don't think Bud or Janice were present at the time but I could be mistaken. What I do know is Disneyland had recently opened and cousin Kathy presented me with a gift, an official Mousekateer cap! Darn I wish I still had those mouse ears. I could make a bundle appearing on the Antiques Roadshow. Don't know whatever became of the ears but I DO well remember getting the special gift and thinking it was pretty great. To this day it's a fond memory and that was over 64 years ago.



Kathy NEVER expressed it in words but I like to believe that I was her FAVORITE "much younger" cousin on the Ragsdale side of the family! How we loved to kid each other and I could NEVER get one over on her... Kathy ALWAYS had a clever comeback. Yes, I admit it; she was smart! What a dear smile and a laugh that was contagious! Karen and I so loved to visit with Kathy and Phil. What a dear soul and wonderful human being. Our family is much better because of Kathy, her love and zest for life, her compassion for others AND her desire to willingly give of herself. We need more like Kathleen Marie Lord Thorson on this small but grand piece of God's creation.

We Love You ALL

Cousin Lee and Karen Bates (Lee's the one with the large dose of Ragsdale DNA)

Lee Bates - November 23, 2019 at 12:00 AM

DM

“ Sending you love and hugs. You were a blessing to so many people and such a wonderful friend to Judy. I know she will see you again one day and it will seem just like yesterday. ❤️

Debora Moore - November 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JV

“ Kathy was a beautiful person and friend. She will be missed very much



Joan Simpkins Valente - November 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ Love you, Kathy. When I join you up there, we will have lots more great times!

Judy A Lanotte - November 22, 2019 at 12:00 AM