



Kathryn Joyce Colby

May 24, 1955 - May 20, 2026

Kathryn (Petracek) Colby, Age 70, of Minnetonka, passed away May 20, 2026.

Born May 24, 1955 to Clarence and Lucille Petracek and raised in Belview, MN as a farmer's daughter, she learned early on the value of hard work, grit, and perseverance that she carried throughout her life. She later attended The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth and then had a wide-ranging career including roles as a 1st-grade teacher, administrative professional, and business project manager.

Kathy was energetic, full-of-life, extremely outgoing, and a devoted friend to so many throughout her life. She was generous, kind and caring, always looking for ways to support those around her.

Kathy and Ron enjoyed 20 vivacious years of marriage, whether it was travelling the world exploring Europe, enjoying African safaris, or hiking Mt. Kilimanjaro. They enjoyed concerts, theater, and countless sporting events. In recent years, they spent their winters in Estero, FL and enjoyed many rounds of golf and new-found friends. At the end of most days, she loved being surrounded by friends and family enjoying a delicious meal and good wine.

Kathy's greatest love was her family. She was a loving wife, an extremely proud mom, and an adoring nana. Her love of life, her joyful smile, and her

laugh lifted her family up, and all those that knew her, every day.

She is survived by her husband of 20 years, Ron; son, Chris (Heather) High; daughter, Jenny (Drew) Teigland; stepdaughters, Bryanne and Casey Colby; grandchildren, Chelsea, Brooklyn, Maeve, Finn, and Sloane; brother, Tom Petracek; sisters, Mary Larpenteur and Barb (Dave) Palma; many more relatives and so many special friends.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 4-8 pm, Tuesday, June 30 at Minnesota Valley Country Club, 6300 Auto Club Rd, Bloomington. Memorials via charitable donations preferred to St Stephens Episcopal Church, Edina, MN or St. Matthews House, Naples, FL.

Tribute Wall

TL

“ *The L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathryn Joyce Colby.*

The L. - 8 hours ago

JL

“ *We are deeply saddened by the passing of our dear neighbour and friend. She was truly one of a kind — caring, thoughtful, and endlessly enthusiastic about life. Her smile and positivity brightened our days, and her kindness made our community feel like home. May her beautiful spirit live on in the hearts of everyone she touched.*

Jun L - 9 hours ago



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Kathryn Joyce Colby.*



June 22 at 02:33 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathryn Joyce Colby.*

June 22 at 02:33 PM

BK

“ *Kathy was a joy to be around... we will never forget the times we shared with her and Ron at Michigan football games and in Florida. She will be sorely missed.*

Gretchen and Brian

brian j klatt - June 06 at 01:05 AM

GS

“ *What an awesome gal. So glad our friend Ron spotted her, courted her and was able to have many extremely happy years together with her. We were lucky then to also become her friends. Our deepest sympathy to Ron, Chris, Jenny, Mary and all the family. You are still with, us Kathy, and always will be.*

Gabriel & Jeanne Shaheen

Gabriel Shaheen - June 05 at 07:18 PM

DF

“ *Sorry to hear of this loss. Praying for family to remember the awesome moments in life with Kathryn. So sad we hadn't seen her since high school. Sounds like she had a wonderful life.*

Darla (Hultquist) Fagerlie - June 04 at 09:54 PM

BR

“ *Dear Friend: Kathryn -any years have passed since our high school graduation and who knew that our journey would take us in different directions. I am happy to read of the joy of life that your family has shared. My deepest sympathy to all who are grieving and I hope the precious memories are kept close to the heart - as mine are from many years ago. ❤️ Beth Ryan (Hagen)*

Beth Ryan - June 03 at 11:06 PM

AD

“ I had the absolute pleasure of being Kathy's personal trainer for a couple years (when she was in Minnesota) and she was such a joy to see each week! She was so bright and had such a zest for life. Although I am a bit younger than Kathy, we instantly connected over sports, family, hobbies, and more! She was such a bright spot in my day/life and I have such fond admiration for her and how she lived her life. She leaves me inspired to lead my life with love, faith, and passion. She spoke so highly of Ron, her children/grandchildren, and loves ones. We stayed in touch after I moved on to a new job and she always was so supportive and wanted to know what was going on in life. I am so saddened to hear of her loss and I want to extend my love and sympathies to her family. I am thinking of you all during this difficult time and send you my prayers.

Amy Donovan - June 03 at 10:45 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Kathryn Joyce Colby.



June 03 at 04:31 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Kathryn Joyce Colby.

June 03 at 04:31 AM

LP

“ *My cousin Kathy died just four days before her birthday.*

The first time I met her, I was in high school. I had never been on a farm before, my father grew up in Minnesota, and we were visiting his brothers, sisters, and mother. I was surprised how tan Kathy was, especially since she lived in the middle of the country, far from any beach. She told me it was from detasseling corn, a job I didn't understand at the time. I remember being instantly struck by her friendliness and positivity.

I moved away, to New York and then California and didn't see her again for almost 40 years, until I briefly lived in Minnesota. I had dinner with Kathy, her husband Ron, and her sisters Mary and Barb. I was going through a lot of anxiety about the move, and grief as well. Kathy would take my calls and comfort me. She brought me a couple of books and told me they would help more than watching TV when I was anxious, and she was right.

*What I remember most about Kathy is her kindness.
Thank you, Kathy. Godspeed. I love you.*

Laura Paige - June 03 at 04:27 AM

FS

“ *Our deepest sympathy to Ron and family. We were fortunate to golf with Ron and Kathy for many years. She was a lovely person with so much energy and positivity. Kathy would always say that if we had a hole-in-one while golfing with her, she would reward us with a new pair of golf shoes. Knowing Kathy, she would do as she said. We valued her friendship and mourn and loss. Our thoughts and prayers to Ron and family. Mike and Fifi Stevens*

Fifi Stevens - June 01 at 05:21 PM

MM

*My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family.
MaryJo Mahowald*

MaryJo Mahowald - June 01 at 10:59 PM

JL

Us College of St. Teresa Nursing students visited the family farm and Kathy introduced us to Mai Tia drinks. She was funny and kind. My thoughts and prayers are with the whole family. JoAnn Stefani Lyons (friend of Mary P. Larpenfer)

JoAnn Lyons - June 02 at 11:37 AM

FP

“ *From Frank and Kimberly Petracek purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kathryn Joyce Colby.*



From Frank and Kimberly Petracek - June 01 at 05:17 PM

FP

“ *From Frank and Kimberly Petracek planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Kathryn Joyce Colby.*

From Frank and Kimberly Petracek - June 01 at 05:17 PM

KD

“ I was fortunate to help Mrs. Colby with her golf game. She was an extremely kind person and worked hard to improve her swing. Through hurricane damage and other obstacles in her life, her strong faith in Christ and joy was evident. She spoke with so much love for her family and always took time to ask how mine was doing too. She had a reputation among the West Bay staff for being upbeat and generous. I will miss her smile and presence at the golf course. Praying for Mr. Colby, her children, grandchildren and others as you grieve the loss of such an amazing woman.

Katie Dahl - June 01 at 04:51 PM

NH

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Sending my deepest sympathy to the family.
Nancy Harris. Friend from WBC

Nancy Harris - June 01 at 04:29 PM