



## Kathy Callas Hoff

January 24, 1932 - August 6, 2022

Hoff, Kathy Callas formerly of Shoreview, St. Anthony and south Minneapolis, passed peacefully Aug. 6 from complications of a fall. Her 90 years were full and fiercely independent, even the last seven with Alzheimer's disease. She was preceded in death by husbands, Eivind Hoff and Henry Valenti; her parents, Violet (Kallas) and William Callas, and her sister, Athena Voorlas Johnson. As the children of Greek immigrants, Kathy and her older siblings learned - largely by working in their parents' restaurants - how to move with ease and intelligence between cultures, languages and communities. After graduating Washburn High School, Kathy persuaded her tradition-minded father to let her go to the University of Minnesota, paying her own way and majoring in elementary education. It was her minor in recreation, however, that brought her into the viewfinder of a tall Park Board photographer. They married in 1954, and together prioritized family, faith, hard work and community service - enjoying 40 years of marriage until Eivind's death in 1994. Kathy was, as her dear friend Georgia George says, "practical and realistic." She was also a trailblazer. With her children in grade school, Kathy re-enrolled in the university and became a reading specialist; she worked again in the Minneapolis public schools, and then served as a planner helping school districts share resources in the metro area. In the early 1970s, she was the first woman elected to the school board in St. Anthony-New Brighton, serving two terms, including as treasurer. After Eivind died, she built a home in Florida and found a second love. She also served with Global Volunteers,

eventually leading teams to Hungary and Ireland, as well as taking her daughter and a granddaughter to Crete in 2014 to teach children English. Physical fitness, especially tennis, was important to Kathy. She learned to play on city courts, made sure her children learned the game, and played with friends and in various leagues in Minnesota and Florida until she could no longer drive to a court. She switched to frequent walking in Ramsey County regional parks and occasional hikes in the Chippewa National Forest, where she caught and cooked plenty of northerns and a rare walleye. Kathy hosted family and friends for countless events and meals, and her abundant lifelong hospitality led her in recent, pandemic times to set the table for people she believed she had invited to her home. We so miss her (and her meals), but trust she now is enjoying the pre-set table in her eternal habitation. Besides her friends, Kathy is survived by her children, Paul (Mary) and Lisa (Jon Bacal); grandchildren Tony Hoff (Kjerstin), Katherine Hoff Shutta (Joe), Daniel Hoff (Burcu Darst) and Lincoln Bacal; great-granddaughter Elif Katherine Host; brother, Michael W. Callas; nieces and nephews, and cousins in Vancouver, Montreal and Athens. Funeral is 11 a.m., with visitation one hour prior, on Wed., Aug. 24, at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave. S, Minneapolis, followed by burial at Lakewood. Visitation from 4-7 p.m., with Trisagion service at 6:30 pm, on Tues., Aug. 23, at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel. Memorials to [stmarysgoc.org](http://stmarysgoc.org) or [globalvolunteers.org](http://globalvolunteers.org) [washburn-mcreavy.com](http://washburn-mcreavy.com) Edina Chapel 952-920-3996 West 50th St. and Hwy 100

# Cemetery Details

## Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)

3600 Hennepin Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 23. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel  
5000 West 50th & Highway 100  
Edina, MN 55436

## Visitation

AUG 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church  
3450 Irving Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408

## Church Service

AUG 24. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church  
3450 Irving Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55408