



Laretta D. Racer

September 10, 2018

Racer, Laretta June (Dunphy) Age 93. Born in St. Paul, Laretta was primarily raised by her mother in a multi-generational setting, with grandparents and an aunt living in apartments below. All of these adults were important figures in her life, especially after her father left the family when she was 12. Books and Saturday trips on the streetcar to the downtown St. Paul library launched her lifelong love of reading and libraries. She was a great student and had a beautiful voice which led her to meet the love of her life. While singing in a church choir, she was spotted by Harley, brother of her new friend Betty Racer. He thought he'd seen an angel singing in the choir; he couldn't take his eyes off the girl with the beautiful black curls. A Jane Austen devotee, Laretta attended the College of St. Catherine and graduated with a degree in English from the University of Minnesota. The next chapter of Laretta's life was shaped by the four kids she raised as Harley established his growing family medical practice in Bloomington. She found time to volunteer at church, read to kids in the school library, and singing with Harley in the choir at Portland Avenue Methodist Church and Oak Grove Presbyterian Church. True to the era, she was a serious homemaker, cooking lovely dinners and keeping the food warm until Harley came home so they could all eat together, which in the 60's meant unfashionably late. Laretta had a classic sense of decorum, so there were no brand names on the table. She admired Jackie Kennedy and adopted her signature style of eyewear. At the Presbyterian Homes, she was known as the woman with the big glasses.

Lauretta was preceded in death by her wonderful mother, Vera Dunphy, and her beloved husband, Harley J. Racer. Lauretta is survived by daughters Kate, Anne (Thomas), Jane (David) and son Peter (Gloria). She treasured the time spent with her grandchildren, Conor, Fiona, Anna (Peter), Evan (Jessica), Peter, and Asa, as much as they treasured the time they spent with her. They will miss her thoughtful letters, cards and special outings. She was over the moon when great grandson Harley was born, followed by Calvin and Margaret. Lauretta's special cousin Elaine Carlson of Stillwater was a welcome visitor during Lauretta's final months. The family is grateful to the staff of Optage hospice care and to the staff of Presbyterian Homes of Bloomington. We will miss this dignified woman of style and grace imbued with a strong inner strength that carried her through hard times admirably. We will celebrate her life in the chapel of Presbyterian Homes of Bloomington, 9889 Penn Ave. S. on Monday, Oct. 1st at 1:00 p.m. Lauretta's favorite, ice cream sundaes, will be served afterwards. In lieu of flowers, friends are encouraged to honor Lauretta by making a donation to a charitable organization of their choice. Washburn-McReavy.com Werness Brothers 952-884-8145