



## LaVonne Carrol Samstad

December 18, 1934 - August 27, 2022

LaVonne C. Samstad

12/18/1934 - 8/27/2022

Formerly of Atwater, MN. Currently of Edina MN.

LaVonne (Vonnie as we know her) was born to Noel Samstad and Camie Jacobson/Samstad in 1934. She graduated from Atwater High School, followed by a degree from St. Cloud State and, later, a Master's Degree through the University of Minnesota.

Vonnie's life was filled with varied interests and great adventures. She was a Social Studies teacher for 31 years in the St. Louis Park schools. While teaching she was also very involved in politics from the 1960's through the early 2000's. She was the Third District Chair and provided active leadership for the Republican party. She was a trusted advisor to Minnesota's Republican U.S. representatives and senator, and exchanged correspondence with them regularly. Vonnie was also willing to do the less glamorous work of political involvement, and organized numerous phone banks for which she received effusive thanks from the candidates.

After retiring from education in 1991 she spent a great deal of her time traveling the world. She traveled with dear friends and family, taking over fifty trips including Istanbul, Spain, Thailand and New Zealand.

In addition to traveling the world, she traveled back in time doing deep research on our family history and genealogy. Her notes and stories go back to the 1850's.

LaVonne was a wonderful person and will be missed by many who love her.

"May the clarity of light be yours,

May the fluency of the oceans be yours,

May the protection of ancestors be yours."

From "Beannaeh't" -meaning "Good-Bye" in Gaelic

By J. O'Donohue

Service to be held Tue, Sept 6 at 10AM at Normandale Lutheran Church,

6100 Normandale Rd, Edina, MN with visitation one hour prior. Interment at

Union Cemetery in Atwater, MN.

Washburn-McReavy.com

Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 6. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (CT)

Normandale Lutheran Church  
6100 Normandale Road  
Edina, MN 55436

## Church Service

SEP 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Normandale Lutheran Church  
6100 Normandale Road  
Edina, MN 55436

## Graveside Service

SEP 6. 2:30 PM - 2:45 PM (CT)

Atwater Union Cemetery  
18880 1st Avenue East  
Atwater, MN 56209

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ I am a 1977 graduate of SLP and a member of Normandale church. Mrs. Samstad's geography class was my favorite class in 8th grade. I loved doing the maps!

*Much later, I enjoyed our conversations at Normandale and hearing about her travels.*

*My sympathies as you celebrate her life today. I am sorry I cannot be in attendance.*

*Sincerely, Susan Dahlgren Sackrison*

---

**susan sackrison** - September 06, 2022 at 08:11 AM

LH

“ LaVonne was a mentor and friend from years ago; she is missed by all who cared about her and worked with her. She was a wise woman who knew how campaigns work and knew the issues as well, a valued advisor. LaVonne was a vital part of Senate District 42 and the 3rd Congressional District; Mary Forsythe, Don Storm, Jim Ramstad, Ron Erhardt and oh so many others in what was once a dominant, functioning Republican party, Bill Frenzel, Dave Durenberger ... they all counted on LaVonne. She was a wise woman who knew how campaigns work and knew the issues as well. Lucy Hahn

---

**Lucy Hahn** - September 05, 2022 at 03:36 PM

RT

“ My condolences on the death of Mrs. Samstad. I was in SLP High school in the late 80's and had her as a teacher. I remember her as being very, very kind in the "Third World" class in which I was enrolled. I'm so glad she had a chance to travel! God bless you.

---

**Rev. Rolf Tollefson** - September 01, 2022 at 01:57 PM