



Leanna Christine McClanahan

November 2, 1951 - April 2, 2023

Leanna Christine (Tessier) McClanahan

Leanna, 71 of St. Anthony Village passed away peacefully at home on Sunday April 2, 2023 (Palm Sunday) surrounded by the love of family after an almost 2 1/2 year courageous battle with melanoma. Her grace through her treatments was a testament to her faith and her extraordinary strength. She proudly and intentionally let faith guide her on her journey.

Leanna was born on November 2, 1951 to Robert and Patricia Tessier in Grand Rapids, MN. She grew up in International Falls and attended St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic School and was a 1970 graduate of Falls High School. She attended Rainy River Community College where she was an active member of the Student Senate and graduated with an Associate degree. From there she enrolled in St. Cloud State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. After college, Leanna married Lauren on June 22, 1974. Without question, he was the love of her life. In their 48 years of marriage, they raised three beautiful daughters and adored nine grandchildren. Their marriage was a shining example of how to live together in faith and love.

Leanna had many work experiences in her lifetime from the Chamber of Commerce and Elenor's Dress Shop in International Falls to Gamble

Robinson in downtown Minneapolis to various retail jobs at Hallmark, Hanson's Goodies and Gifts, Herbergers, and JC Penney. Much of this work was to ensure a Catholic education and countless extracurricular opportunities for her daughters. She was never afraid of hard work.

God blessed Leanna with the gift of being a nurturing and patient caregiver. Her most important caregiving role was being a loving mother who put her heart and soul into raising her three daughters. She was overjoyed when she became a grandma and prioritized caring for her grandchildren by generously showering them with her time, energy, and love.

Leanna also used her gift of caregiving as a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Trained Medication Aide (TMA) in the care center, assisted living unit, and memory care unit at Presbyterian Homes Langton Place and Johanna Shores locations. She provided private home health care and companionship for elderly in St. Paul. This experience led her to her dear Lucreta whom she cared for for 5 years.

Leanna had a beautiful and creative mind. She was an extremely talented artist and did many freelance projects. An entire room in her house was designated as her art studio and was bursting with projects and items that inspired her broad artistic interests. Many of her pieces were completed using colored pencils or watercolors. Most recently she enjoyed making unique and personalized bookmarks, cards, and keepsake boxes. She had artistic vision and the skill to make it a reality.

Of utmost importance to Leanna was respecting life from conception to natural death. Throughout her life she worked to preserve human dignity. Leanna was a public speaker and board member for Human Life Alliance. She was on the ethics committee for Presbyterian Homes and served on the Eastside Hennepin County Human Service Council. She attended conferences on the

issues of euthanasia, abortion and the vulnerable. A proud memory Leanna often shared was when she attended the March for Life in Washington D.C. in 1985.

Leanna loved to be involved in her parish, her children's schools, and her community. She was a member of the St. Charles Council of Catholic Women and served a term as President in the late 1980s. She sat on the Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women's Minneapolis Deanery Board. Leanna was a Eucharistic Minister, First Communion-Holy Family moderator, RCIA sponsor, Mardi Gras chairperson, Home and School member and church study group leader. She worked on various capital campaigns, volunteered at the Adoration Chapel and did miscellaneous artwork for the parish and school. She enthusiastically chaperoned her daughters' high school dances, which her daughters look back on with fond memories. Leanna also attended republican district caucuses and served as an alternate delegate at the State Republican Convention.

In 2019 Leanna realized a life long dream when she and Lauren won a church raffle for a trip to the Holy Land. It was quite the adventure and she loved every second of it! She embraced the experience and made a beautiful memory book filled with pictures and anecdotes upon their return.

Leanna had several hobbies. She loved decorating for holidays, especially Easter, 4th of July, Halloween and Christmas. She was also the family historian and spent countless hours working on the family tree and photo albums. She took pictures of every event and wrote detailed notes of family vacations. She enjoyed planning vacations, especially the big ones with her daughters and their families. Another hobby was watching sporting events. She supported her girls by regularly attending their sports through college. When her grandchildren began playing sports she would write all of their

games on her calendar so as not to miss anything. Sometimes she would be found at multiple games on the same night and she loved it! She never missed a school activity for her grandchildren either and proudly represented all of them on Grandparents Day. Some of her other interests included preparing family meals and shopping with her daughters and granddaughters.

Leanna had a beautiful smile and vibrant personality. When you were her friend you were a friend for a lifetime. She was a woman of strong faith who loved completely. She will be dearly missed by so many, but the joy and light she brought to the lives of those who knew her will never be forgotten.

She was preceded in death by her parents Robert and Patricia (Demarais) Tessier, sister Lynnette and beloved nephew Robert Schwarz. She is survived by her devoted husband Lauren, daughters Kelly (Keith) Demarest, Katie (Brian) Vnak, Molly (AJ) Siroin; 9 grandchildren Elena Demarest, Tom, Joe, Peter, Grace, Ava Vnak, Braden, Brett, Hailey Siroin; sisters Patty Kaviuk, Renee (Ric) Sandstrom, Josette (Robert) Schwarz; brothers Paul, Morry, Chris (Tammy); numerous nieces and nephews and many more family and friends.

Many thanks to the doctors and nurses at the Regions Cancer Center and the Health Partners Hospice team.

Leanna will have a Mass of Christian Burial at the Church of St. Charles Borromeo 2739 Stinson Blvd. NE, Mpls on Friday 4/14 at 11am with visitation one hour prior to Mass in the church atrium. There will also be a Visitation at the Washburn-McReavy Northeast Chapel 2901 Johnson St. NE, Mpls on Thursday 4/13 from 4-7pm with a prayer service beginning at 6:45pm. Interment will be at Hillside Cemetery 2600 19th Ave. NE, Mpls following the funeral luncheon. If you would like to honor Leanna with a memorial, please consider donating to the Gary G. Wilmer Scholarship fund at St. Charles

Borromeo School or the Sisters of Life (sistersoflife.org)

Cemetery Details

Hillside Cemetery (Minneapolis)

2600 19th Ave NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 13. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Northeast Chapel
2901 Johnson Street N.E.
Minneapolis, MN 55418
(612) 781-6828
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Visitation

APR 14. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Church of St. Charles Borromeo
2739 Stinson Boulevard NE
St. Anthony, MN 55418

Mass of Christian Burial

APR 14. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Church of St. Charles Borromeo
2739 Stinson Boulevard NE
St. Anthony, MN 55418

Tribute Wall

MB

“ Thank You, Lord, for Leanna McClanahan. If there were more people like her, and more families like hers, our world would be a better place. Her cheerfulness, her charity, her faith, her fighting for unborn people, all made her a “light in the darkness.” What a fine example she was of “a well-lived life.” May God reward her. Our condolences to the McClanahan family.
Michael and Rosanne Bird family

Michael Bird - April 14, 2023 at 09:54 AM

AM

“ Leanna was my soul mate. I met her almost 60 years! ago when she and her family moved to Phoenix. She was the oldest of 7 kids, I was the oldest of 6. She was an artist, so am I, as was her dad, whom if truth be told I had a crush on. She and I became great friends. We did everything together until the day she told me she could not swim. I said I could teach her she said "No". I said I can teach anyone she said "No" because she was moving back to International Falls. My heart broke that day. I remember like it was yesterday. But I never forgot her. We saw each other on and off over the years. She had three girls I had three boys. She would call and we could talk for hours on the phone. She was passionate about life and politics. I would get these wonderful family photos of her dressing up for Halloween or with all of her grandkids. Leanna has left a legacy she would be proud of. She also left a few broken again hearts, mine being one of them. I will love and miss her forever. So very glad she was a part of my life. I will think of her every time I see a red rose. Hugs. Anne

Anne Martin - April 12, 2023 at 07:33 PM

AB

“ I worked with Leanna the part-time night shift at Presbyterian Homes Assisted Living of Lake Johanna /a second job for me/ many years ago . Most of my working years were spent in elder care as I passionately loved and respected old people . Leanna stood out early on as one kindred spirit who genuinely cared, kindly and patiently attended to and courageously stood up for the vulnerable residents there . She and I often fumed over shortcomings in the system and the services, and of individuals ; what a firecracker she was when angry ! We also shared the humor and wisdom we encountered from the old .

While working in my neighborhood for the Como Block Nurse Program, one of my clients, Lucreta, needed extended care, more than I could provide . I could not think of a better person to recommend to Lucreta's sons, than Leanna to join our care team . She was loving, considerate, steadfast, reliable from the beginning and always very personable and lively, just what an almost blind Lucreta in her nineties needed in a companion . Eventually, she ended up organizing around the clock care and the sons completely trusted her . She went over and beyond a caretaker's duty, e.g. she organized a traditional Thanksgiving potluck meal one time for Lucreta in her dining room . Leanna stayed with her long after our program ended, all through the end at the Care Center. There she rigged up xmas lights in her room way before xmas . Even afterwards she helped clean up, pack up in the apartment and remained as a support for one of the sons . A friend indeed ... For years, once in a great while, she and I met up for lunch at Keys and chatted for hours it seemed . We were going to go back together and visit the old Pres. Home ; but life got in the way, it was not meant to be I will cherish my precious time and memories of Leanna and grateful to have met her, a beautiful person who made a beautiful family . It was an honor to follow the heroic battle she and all of you, her family fought with her, with faith and so much love, it moved me to tears . Thank you Family for the journal and the journey, now Leanna makes me smile, her friend, Anna B .

Anna Bedard - April 12, 2023 at 05:05 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of
Leanna Christine McClanahan.



April 12, 2023 at 09:51 AM