



## Lisa Virginia Zakula

August 14, 1954 - September 3, 2024

Lisa Virginia Zakula, age 70, of Edina, passed peacefully on September 3, 2024 after a courageous two year battle with glioblastoma. She is survived by her loving husband of 44 years, Dr. Michael; children, Linden Zakula (Alexandra Fetissoff), Kellen Zakula (John Stoddard); grandchildren, Luca and Colette; sister, Dr. Lindsey Grossman (Dr. Neil); other relatives and friends.

Lisa's life was guided by her desire to enrich the lives of those around her. She found beauty in the everyday-the lines of a chair, the satiny transformation of egg whites into a meringue, the merging of colors in a quilt-and sought to bring that beauty to others.

After leaving her hometown of Pittsburgh, Lisa graduated from the University of West Virginia with a degree in nursing. Lisa found her calling in caring for others, first at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, VA, then Crawford-Long Hospital in Atlanta, GA and finally at Mesabi Regional Medical Center in Hibbing, Minnesota. After retiring from nursing, Lisa found new ways to serve her community and creative pursuits - writing grants to bring the arts to local schools, sewing costumes for her sons' performing arts group, and serving on the board of the Duluth Superior Orchestra. All this while helping manage her husband's orthodontic practice in between interruptions to bring her boys to the emergency room for their latest set of stitches or to render a verdict in the latest sibling dispute.

Lisa loved music and dance. She generously gave of her time and leveraged her sheer determination to bring music and the arts to rural classrooms - providing kids a trailhead for their imagination, a portal to another universe, and the ability to pause and see the beauty we too often overlook.

Cooking was one of Lisa's favorite pastimes. She treated friends, family, and strangers alike to incredible (and always beautiful) meals. Food was not just an outlet for her pursuit of perfection, but one of the many ways she expressed her love. Her creativity, sense of style, and meticulousness were also on full display in the many quilts she sewed - quilts that have provided her friends and family an excuse to snuggle and a soft space for her grandchildren to crawl. They will carry her warmth with them for years to come.

To know Lisa was to know someone who wore their heart on their sleeve (for better or for worse!), who gave of her time, who gave her husband her love, and who taught her children how to make their own path in life. These gifts will extend far beyond her life that was tragically cut short.

A memorial service/celebration of life will be held at 11 AM Thursday, September 19 with visitation beginning at 10 AM at Washburn McReavy Edina Chapel, 5000 W. 50th St. Edina. Following the service a reception will be held. In lieu of flowers, financial contributions in memory of Lisa can be made to Little Hospice in Edina, Minnesota.

[www.washburn-mcreavy.com](http://www.washburn-mcreavy.com)

Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **19**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

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

## Memorial Service

SEP **19**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (CT)

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

## Reception

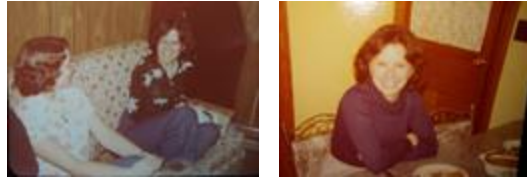
SEP **19**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

# Tribute Wall

LH

“ These photos were taken March 11, 1977, when Lisa was in Hiltons, VA, for our Uncle Joe's funeral. Janice Derting is in the photo, also.



Lennea Derting Hickam - December 13, 2024 at 12:23 PM

LH

“ We were so sorry to hear of Lisa's passing. Our greatest sympathy goes to her family. Lisa was my (Lennea Derting Hickam) first cousin. I always thought so highly of her and wished we had lived closer. Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. The 3 color photos were made August 20, 1992, when Lisa brought Linden and Kellen down to Hiltons, VA, for a visit.



Lennea Derting Hickam - December 11, 2024 at 02:28 PM

SH

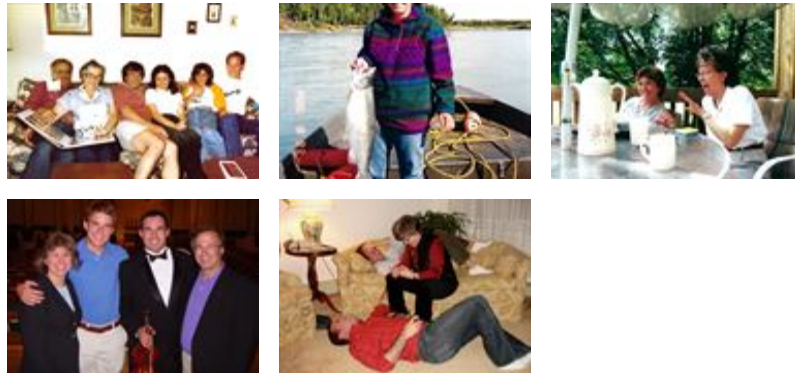
“ I’m so sad to hear of Lisa’s passing. Sending love and prayers to the family. Lisa and I were neighbors and friends during junior high in Monroeville before I moved to Cleveland. We shared a love of baking and the Monkees. 😞 I remember we baked a cake for Mickey Dolenz’s birthday and her dad drove us down to KQV, the local rock radio station. We stood outside the big window and I believe one of the employees came out to get the cake. (That was a “thing” in the 60’s...take a cake to the radio station to celebrate a favorite artist’s birthday. 🧑🏻👧) We also went to our first rock concert together at the Civic Arena. KQV sponsored “Shower of Stars” and Steppin’ Wolf was the main attraction. We were both interested in nursing careers and talked about joining the Air Force or Navy. I ended up going on to be a teacher, but I can imagine that Lisa was a wonderfully compassionate nurse. Scrolling through the pictures here, seeing Mrs. Derting and Lindsey, brings back lots of great memories of time spent at Lisa’s house and walking down the street to see her grandparents. I’m sorry I lost touch after college. In recent years I’ve searched for her on social media, but I only knew her as Lisa Derting, so I was never able to connect. I’m so sorry for the tremendous loss you are all feeling. She was a beautiful person, inside and out.

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**Sue Howard** - November 16, 2024 at 09:50 PM



“ 48 files added to the album Life Tributes



Washburn-McReavy - September 17, 2024 at 10:17 AM

TO

“ The O'Phelans purchased the Simply Elegant Sp  
athiphyllum for the family of Lisa Virginia Zakula.



The O'Phelans - September 17, 2024 at 09:01 AM

TO

“ The O'Phelans planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Virginia Zakula.

The O'Phelans - September 17, 2024 at 09:01 AM

FU

“ From All of Us at USMX purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Lisa Virginia Zakula.



From All of Us at USMX - September 16, 2024 at 10:32 AM

CG

“ Lisa always made everyone feel comfortable. Delightful conversations with infectious laughter. Never afraid to address any subject with insightful comments and wit. The strength she displayed these last two years was incredible. Her memory will always be there, but she will truly be missed. Mina & Cliff Genzler

Cliff & Mina Genzler - September 12, 2024 at 07:58 PM



“ Basket of Memories was purchased for the family of Lisa Virginia Zakula.



September 11, 2024 at 06:33 PM

DZ

“ Dr. John T. & Claudia Zupancic planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Lisa Virginia Zakula.

Dr. John T. & Claudia Zupancic - September 11, 2024 at 06:33 PM

JG

“ John Gulon purchased the Simply Elegant Spathi phyllum for the family of Lisa Virginia Zakula.



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**John Gulon** - September 09, 2024 at 08:34 AM

IK

“ I will always remember Lisa’s spirited smile, the twinkle in her eyes and her delightful laughter. We shared memories of Suzuki violin with our children and performing with Helena. Then there was Prairie Fire Children’s Theatre and the tennis meets with our boys. I will cherish all the moments we shared while raising our families in Hibbing. Our deepest condolences to the Zakula family in the loss of their dear Lisa. Her light will shine bright with the love she had for her family.



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**Ilona Kearney** - September 06, 2024 at 09:07 PM

LG

“ My baby sister was a most unique person. For some reason she was always in the shadows and many of those around her so underestimated her, only to their detriment since she would be busy doing everything she could for all those around her. Her successes were so numerous but rarely acknowledged by the communities she served. And that was okay by her since she was happy just knowing herself that she had made a difference. There is a huge hole in my heart that cannot ever be refilled. I love you, Lis! 💔 Lynz

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**Lindsey Grossman** - September 05, 2024 at 02:46 PM