



Margaret Ann Riha

June 14, 1951 - February 20, 2025

Margaret "Peggy" Riha

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A dear, sweet woman has been peacefully released from her suffering.

Peggy Riha passed away on February 20 of complications from Lewy Body Dementia. While we will miss our precious wife, sister and friend, we are grateful that she is now free from the disease that affected her these past years.

Peggy was born in Bismarck, North Dakota. Life in Bismarck was idyllic in many ways as Peggy and her younger siblings, Patti and Dick, were raised in a loving home by parents who prioritized their children. Her dad was almost always home from his work as a dentist by 5:00, and her mother had dinner on the table shortly thereafter. The house had a large back yard and a golf course and baseball diamonds behind the fence, which resulted in many delightful summer activities for the family. They were lucky to be able to have long vacations in which they saw much of the United States. Of course, the children had to be separated in the car or a ruckus would ensue; Dick sat in the front seat between Mom and Dad while Peggy and Patti sat in the back with an imaginary line down the middle of the seat that they weren't allowed to

cross.

As a child, Peggy's father led her to believe that the flags flying around town on Flag Day (her birthday) were for her. It was this kind of sweet story that would follow the three "Riha kids" throughout their childhoods. Bismarck and North Dakota held a special place in Peggy's life and she loved spending summer vacations there as well as Christmases, once she moved to the Twin Cities. She was truly a prairie girl.

Peggy attended Catholic schools in Bismarck and also at what was then The College of St. Catherine in St. Paul. Her faith remained important to her throughout her life.

While at St. Catherine's, Peggy chose Library Science and English as her majors. She went on to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin Madison and received her master's degree in Library Science there.

Except for stints at Macalester College and at Cargill's library, Peggy's entire career was with the Anoka County Library system. She worked at several locations, including the Northtown, Crooked Lake, Mississippi and Rum River locations, heading the libraries at Crooked Lake, Mississippi and Rum River. When computers for the patrons were first installed, she commented that she hadn't been schooled on that occurrence! It changed everything.

Fun times for Peggy included caring for her dogs and collecting. She had extensive collections of Hummels, crystal trees, collie figurines, Waterford crystal, dishes and jewelry! She and Patti took annual antiquing trips all over Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and North Dakota, usually adding a piece or two to her collections. These trips were cherished times for both sisters.

Vacations were also a large part of Peggy's life with Val, her husband. They

traveled to Alaska, the Bahamas, Florida and Ireland, which especially delighted her because she revered her Irish heritage.

Peggy made many friends while at St. Catherine's and these women remained her friends throughout her life. Frequent potlucks introduced new boyfriends, husbands and children to the group. She also stayed close to many librarians she met while working and they would commiserate about the perils of running libraries, for years after they'd retired.

Peggy and Val created a beautiful home for themselves in Shoreview. Their townhouse sat on a pond, where they would laugh, then be irritated with, the wildlife messing up the place. They enjoyed many evenings on their deck with friends from the neighborhood. If the martini light in their front window was lit, it was time to party!

Special thanks and deepest gratitude go to Meron and Terrance Joseph and their beautiful daughters Sophia and Gigi, Peggy's caregiving family during her illness. This family truly embodies what caregiving is about. Peggy received loving and compassionate care 24/7 and her family will never forget the many kindnesses extended to both Peggy and the family and friends who visited.

Peggy is survived by her husband, Val Burdick, his two sons, Charles and Rob, Charles' wife Christy Haynes and their two children, Clark and Charlie. She is also survived by her sister Patti and her brother Richard. Predeceasing Peggy are her parents, Emil and Peggy.

Memorials may be sent to St. Catherine University or the Humane Society.

Mass of Christian Burial 11:00AM (visitation begins at 10:00AM) Wednesday,

March 26 at St. Odilia Catholic Church, 3495 Victoria Street North, Shoreview, followed by interment in the St. Odilia Prayer Garden. A luncheon will follow. The service will also be livestreamed for those who cannot attend.

Tribute Wall

MN

“ *What a beautiful funeral ceremony. Wish we could have been there in person. Peg was a great friend throughout high school. And a perfect Maid of Honor for me. Time passes too quickly and we follow different paths but the memories stay forever Prayers for her family. Mike and Mary (Seifert) Neigum*

Mary Neigum - March 26, 2025 at 01:08 PM

MW

“ *Patti and the entire family. I was so sorry to hear of Peggy's death. I met her a few times and she was as sweet and kind as Patti is. You all will continue to be in my prayers. Mary Ellen Walker.*

Mary Ellen Walker - March 03, 2025 at 01:55 PM

JM

“ *So sorry to hear about Peggy's illness and passing. She was a wonderful supervisor to me when I worked at the Crooked Lake Library - she always supported projects I wanted to do and was a wonderful supervisor. She was my supervisor again many, many years later at the Library Support Services location. I remember lovely Christmas gatherings she had at her home for our Crooked Lake Library team back in the day. My condolences to her friends and loved ones.*

Jorjean Murphy - March 03, 2025 at 01:26 PM

MG

“ I am so sorry to hear of Peggy's passing, I went to grade school and high school with her. My sympathy to the family.. I hadn't seen her or talked to her since I lived in the Twin Cities, but think of her often, especially when I drive by her family home. I'm sure she will be missed and I will continue to think of her often.

Peg Gebhardt

Margaret Gebhardt - March 02, 2025 at 04:50 PM

JK

“ So sorry to read about Peggy. I worked with her briefly at Crooked Lake and during the years she was manager at the Rum River Library. My sympathies to all her family.

Janet Kleckner - March 02, 2025 at 01:47 PM

BA

“ I am so sorry to hear of Peggy's passing. I worked for her at the Rum River Library as a librarian. But, when I first started as a substitute librarian, I spent a few weeks at the Mississippi branch where Peggy was managing. I had an idea for a project and Peggy gave me the go ahead to proceed. She supported me and instructed me, and I learned so much from her. This was an important step in my becoming a librarian, and I was so grateful for Peggy's guidance.

Barb - March 02, 2025 at 11:27 AM

MH

“ My deepest sympathies to all who loved her. Peggy was my first boss at ACL. She was tough, but she wanted you to do your best and succeed. I will always be grateful for her guidance as I started my library career. Peace and comfort to you all.

Mary H - March 01, 2025 at 05:47 PM

SL

“ to Peggy's family, My prayerful sympathy. I knew Peggy when she was a student at Cathedral Grade School in Bismarck. I was Patti's first grade teacher. it was sheer joy to know the Riha family. Your parents, devoted to their children, supporting them in their activities and studies, were likewise devoted to the people of Cathedral Parish. I pray that Peggy knows God's eternal welcome of joy, love and peace in the relief she knows of the Lewy Body dementia. May the fond memories you treasure bring you joy and consolation. Sincerely, Sister Susan Lardy

SISTER SUSAN LARDY - March 01, 2025 at 04:00 PM