



Marilyn Marie Raplinger

November 26, 1935 - July 26, 2025

Marilyn Raplinger passed away on July 26, Saturday afternoon at the age of 89.

Cause of death was respiratory failure as a result of congestive heart failure and COPD. She also suffered from Lewy Body dementia.

Marilyn was born in Keswick, Iowa on November 26, 1935. Her mother Mildred VanFleet was a teacher, and her father Charles VanFleet was a mechanic. The family later moved to a farm outside South English Iowa.

Marilyn graduated from South English high school in 1953, Iowa State Teachers College in 1955 with an associate's degree in education and later achieved her master's degree in education from the University of Iowa.

Marilyn taught fourth grade in Burnsville Minnesota school district for over 30 years starting in 1965. She was a strong feminist. Her political volunteering included many DFL and Democratic candidates, both locally and for federal government. Her husband, John similarly volunteered, and their work resulted in Marilyn and John receiving the DFL Hubert Humphrey award in 2000. Marilyn also received a DFL Woman of Distinction Award in 2012.

Marilyn traveled widely including New Mexico, Alaska, Hawaii, skiing in the

Rockies, and fishing trips to Canada. She also traveled to Europe many times with her husband, John that included England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, as well as Costa Rica and Australia. Summer vacation often included stays at Lake Gogebic in the Upper Peninsula Michigan and Lake Vermilion in Minnesota. She loved to fish those lakes. The BWCA was a treasured vacation spot with friends or her son. At home, she loved to read or spend time in the yard and garden.

Marilyn was energetic and frank. She would call a spade of spade. She had deep concerns over the conditions of her fellow human beings and worked to improve those conditions. She had a sense of humor that never faded as she aged. She was appreciative of the care she received at Fountains At Hosanna, Willow's memory care unit, and the staff there. She enjoyed the occasional Red Lobster or Kentucky Fried chicken meals with her son and had the opportunity to have weekly Friday lunches with her husband John thanks to the efforts of Assisted Transport and Right at Home PCA services.

Marilyn is survived by her husband of 69 years, John Raplinger and her son Robin Raplinger (Deanne Hart). Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, Mildred and Charlie VanFleet, and by her brother George VanFleet.

The funeral service will be held on Thursday, August 7 at 1:30 PM at the Washburn - McReavy Funeral Chapel, 2300 W. Old Shakopee Rd., Bloomington, MN. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Marilyn's memory to Planned Parenthood or the Arbor Day Foundation would be appreciated.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 7. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Bloomington Chapel
2300 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
(952) 884-8145
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Memorial Service

AUG 7. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

Bloomington Chapel
2300 W. Old Shakopee Road
Bloomington, MN 55431
(952) 884-8145
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

Tribute Wall



“ John and Robin. I am sorry about Mrs.R passing. This is Mome.Mrs. R took me over the summertime and I would stay there in Lakeville home and teach me extra on reading and writing when I was in 4th grade I really missed her and I am so sad that I haven't got time to see her before she passed. Please message me sometime on my FB so you guy can share memories of her and I could share some memories of her and I when I with her and you guy in the 80..Yey-yey sreymome Melissa sokhom..never forget you guys kindness. MOME C

Soda Lee - December 04, 2025 at 03:14 PM



“ John and Robin - so sorry to hear of Marilyn's passing. Always enjoyed seeing Marilyn when she would stop over and see Mom when you visited South English. And I know their trip to Australia was the trip of a lifetime for my mom. My condolences. Virginia Garrett

Gini Garrett - August 19, 2025 at 08:13 PM



“ My sincere condolences to my friend of my youth John. I am truly sorry to hear of Marilyn's death and please know that you and your family are in my prayers. Jim Walton



Jim Walton - August 11, 2025 at 04:54 PM

RR

Great photo. If you get this please give me a call 218-741-3569. Robin

Robin Raplinger - January 22 at 10:35 AM

LS

“ *I met Marilyn while working at the Fountains of Hosana. Marilyn won my heart immediately through our like minded humor. We shared so many stories and she became my special friend. She was one special lady. She said things like they were, no sugar coating which I appreciated. She will forever hold a place in my heart. ❤️ Lisa Stubbs*

Lisa Stubbs - August 11, 2025 at 12:52 PM

JM

“ *Joe & Kelly Moses purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Marilyn Marie Raplinger.*



Joe & Kelly Moses - August 07, 2025 at 07:39 PM

RU

“ *Dear John and Rob,
I have so many fond memories of putting up DFL candidate signs in the harsh Minnesota November weather. I also loved the parties afterwards. Marilyn was a very good friend.
Sigrid*



ruhmann - August 07, 2025 at 12:17 PM

MW

“ I knew her through the DFL and admired her compassion and commitment. My sympathies to her family and to all who loved her. May she rest in peace.



Mark Wallem - August 06, 2025 at 02:40 AM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Marilyn Marie Raplinger.

August 04, 2025 at 04:14 PM

GG

“ Rob and John, We are so sorry to hear of your loss. You are in our thoughts and prayers. I'm thinking about how Marilyn and Wanda would watch girls basketball and how Wanda enjoyed those evenings. The Gunderson Brothers!

Gregg Gunderson - August 04, 2025 at 04:00 PM