



## Marlene Caroline Testa Lee

December 11, 1939 - June 7, 2021

Lee, Marlene Caroline Testa

age 81 of White Bear Lake changed her address to Heaven June 7, 2021.

Full Notice Thursday.

Visitation 9-10 AM Friday, June 11, 2021 at Holcomb Henry Boom Purcell

Funeral Home, 515 Hwy 96, Shoreview, MN,

Funeral Services 11 AM Friday at North Heights Lutheran Church, Arden Hills.

Private Interment Forest Lawn Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Tribute Video in memory of Marlene Caroline Testa Lee



December 14, 2023 at 06:22 PM



“ Eternally grateful for the gift of music that Mrs. Lee shared with me through my years at Hand In Hand. I have never met a more passionate, caring, and dedicated educator. I'll never forget her ability to lift an entire room's spirit with only her smile. You will be dearly missed Mrs. Lee, not only by one class of students, but by the entire HIH family and alumni.



Jack Spicer - August 08, 2021 at 12:00 AM



“ We are very sorry for your loss, and so thankful for the promise of Heaven. Our prayers are with you.  
Love,  
The Dolezal Family

Leanne Dolezal - June 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM

“ Dear Larry, Michelle, Nathan, and extended family,

*Our hearts were with you while you gathered with dear friends and family to commemorate the life of your wife, mother, grandma. Be assured thousands more wished they could have been there to support you in your time of sorrow.*

*Marlene was truly a modern Renaissance woman. She was educated, refined, and well versed in social graces. She had an impressive musical talent and exuded great appreciation for all forms of art. Those fortunate enough to be invited to the Lee home for dinner were amazed at Marlene's beautifully set table with tall candles, cloth napkins, bone china, Catawba in elegant glasses, and a meal par excellence...always with an Italian flare!*

*In 1981 we took the Summit Church youth group on an AIM adventure to Mexico. After months of faith, fundraising and sacrifice, I took a set of checks to deposit at the Grand Avenue Bank. Even then, we were still \$800 short.*

*To our surprise as we left the bank that afternoon, Marlene was with Michelle in her beautiful white Cadillac. (Hey, if there was ever a lady who belonged in a Caddy, it was her!) She lowered the power window with the most cheery greeting. "Oh, Pastor Mike, how are you? Are you getting ready to go to Mexico?" I responded that we'd just made the last deposit, and almost had all the funds together to go. "Oh, Pastor Mike, are you still short of money?" A tad embarrassed at not guarding my words a little better, I admitted we were a bit behind.*

*Marlene opened her purse and proceeded to write a check for \$500! We were shocked! Back in 1981, that was a lot of money. "Oh, Marlene," I said "thank you sooooo much. This gets us close to victory, it means more than you'll ever know."*

*"Wait a minute! You still need more? I'll write you another one."*

*Suddenly, we were \$200 over the goal! How God used Marlene's generous heart to bless an entire group of young people for one of the most transformational experiences of their lifetimes.*

*Our two daughters, Kristi and Elizabeth, always remember "Auntie" Marlene because of her incredible kindness. So many times, they ran up to greet her at Summit, and she'd open her little hand painted "lunch box" purse and give them a dollar. Her generosity and love for children is legendary in our family.*

*Marlene's work with Michelle at the Montessori School birthed hundreds of spiritual children. She loved them and prayed for them like her own. Few others have made such an imprint on the lives of so many. One day in Heaven we will see the true impact of her beautiful life as thousands come into those Gates with singing, and Marlene leading the pack!*

*"May the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you: the Lord turn his face toward you...and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26*

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**Mike & Mona Shields** - June 16, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DP

“*My deepest sympathy to Marlene's lovely family. I have the fondest of memories of our friendship at Johnson High School. Marlene was a beautiful person, inside and out. I've always admired and respected such a talented lady.*

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**Dixie Davis Picotte** - June 14, 2021 at 12:00 AM

LO

“ My dear friend Marlene, for thirty years I've known you. We met through your sisters. So full of energy and such an encourager! Such an uplifting friend and mentor to me. I will miss you so very much - until we meet again in Heaven, forever with Jesus!

Linda J. (Clark) Oakley - June 12, 2021 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ Dear Mrs. Lee, I will surely miss you. I remember the first time I met you. It was on a Saturday morning and I was taking my first Montessori class and you were one of my teachers. Thank you for always pouring into me. I love you so much and I know I will see you again someday. I pray that you and my mother are having a blast in heaven with Jesus. Until we meet again, Love always, Sarah E. Richey!



Sarah Richey - June 12, 2021 at 12:00 AM

CH

“ Vibrant, smiling, reflecting the love of the Lord. She was a gift to us all. Sorry for your loss. We are praying for you all.

Chuck and Vickie Harris - June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Michelle, You and your mom were instrumental in my early faith journey. I first gave my life to Christ at Lake Geneva Bible Camp and then your mom was my Missionette leader. I am so grateful for her willingness to teach us the Bible. She was a bright spot and so sweet. I am sorry for your loss and will cherish her memory. Love to your family from ours. Jill and Darin Hahn



Julia (Jill) Class Hahn - June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I have been revisiting my fond memories of Marlene this past week as I traveled down memory lane. Marlene was our youth choir director when I was a teen at Roseville A of G in the early 60s. She even found us a "gig" singing Christmas carols at Har Mar Mall one December. One of the songs we sang was "Do You See What I See." I remember her changing the word "dancing" to "shining" in the phrase "a star, a star, dancing in the night." Later, many of us experienced Marlene and Betty's hospitality at the not-to-be-missed Melaleuca product information meetings in Marlene's home. My thoughts and prayers continue to be with you all during this time of loss.

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**Julia "Julie" Dillner Langer** - June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ *Michelle and sweet family,  
We are praying for strength and peace for  
you.*

*Our hearts are filled with admiration, gratitude  
and love to our dear friend, Mrs. Lee,  
Marlene.*

*These last eleven years Mrs. Lee was our Musikgarten teacher,  
family preschool guide, spiritual leader, music teacher, choir  
director, friend, colleague, piano teacher and so much more. We  
appreciated her high expectations, endless smiles, encouraging  
words, generous heart, funny Italian sayings, and loving hugs. She  
loved us as her own, something so special for my children and  
every child she encountered. We are grateful for her investment of  
time, talent and treasure to spread the love of Jesus for His glory  
and to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian Montessori  
globally. Her love, leadership, lifetime work, and legacy will live on in  
the generations to come.*

*Mrs. Lee's life was a rich blessing,  
Her memory is a special treasure.*

*Forever in our hearts she will be,*

*Our teacher, mentor, friend, and most beloved, Mrs. Lee.*

*A daughter of the King and a true gift from the LORD.*

*With love, Joe and Sheila Myers*

*Hans, Greta, Analiese, and Elsa Mae*



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**Joe and Sheila Myers** - June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ I have fond memories of Marlene from my teenage years. I remember a time several of us went skating at Como Park lake - she was amazing, a very skilled ice skater. Her music talent was beyond compare and her smile would light up a room. Look forward to seeing you Marlene one day in Heaven.....you got there ahead of several of us.



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**Brenda Lou Harms** - June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ To one of the most encouraging persons I've ever known! Rest in the arms of our Lord, sweet, sweet lady!



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**Jeff Taylor** - June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM

FE

“ *In loving memory of my best friend Marlene. We met at Bible camp in Alexandria, MN when we were 13 years old. I lived in Rochester and she lived in St. Paul so we would only see each other every year at camp. We always shared a room together in one of the cabins. We had so much fun. After high school graduation Marlene and I both went to North Central Bible college for 1 year and then transferred to MacPhail College of Music where we majored in piano and received our Bachelor of Music degree. In 1963 I was honored to be in Marlene's wedding as a bridesmaid and I stood up with Michelle's father-in-law, Richard Thompson. In 1967 I moved away to Colorado and in 1973 to Texas where I am currently living. We were not in contact after I moved but we connected again about 15 years ago. In 2011 she called me and was all excited about Melaleuca and wanted me to join the company. I did and I am still a member to this day. Then she invited me to attend a Melaleuca convention with her. We attended 2 years together in Salt Lake City, Utah. This was the first time we had seen each other since 1967. It was just like old times being together again. Then in 2017 and 2018 she invited me to go to her condo in Florida which I did. I have not seen her since then but we have kept in constant communication by arranging a weekly schedule to take turns calling each other every Sunday evening. We missed our call on Sunday, May 16th because I knew she was getting sick the last time we talked. Since I didn't hear from her for over a week, I called on Wednesday the 19th to see how she was doing. She was very sick and weak and said Michelle was coming over that evening. That was the last day I spoke with Marlene. I am so thankful to God for bringing us together when we were teenagers and it has lasted until the day she died. I will miss her dearly but I know she is much better off where she is now with Jesus.*



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Faye Ekberg - June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ Thank you for teaching music and playing the piano for us.



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Maia swanson - June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM

HB

“ Mrs. Lee was such a joyous person. Her love for the Word of God inspired me. Mrs. Lee wasn't just my Montessori teacher but a mentor, a friend, and a sister in Christ. Her smile lit up the room every time. Her love for children was truly truly amazing! She cared about their hearts the way Jesus cares about children's hearts. She had an amazing voice and used it for God's glory to shine in this broken world. I will dearly miss Mrs. Lee. She leaves a legacy that cannot be filled. I am so thankful that Mrs. Lee is with her Savior in heaven rejoicing and worshipping Him. My heart aches at the thought that I will not see her again. But as my heart aches I can also rejoice because one day I will see her again. Her joy for the Lord will never leave this world. It will live on in me and everyone else she had an impact on. Mrs. Lee is resting in the arms of her Savior and there is no better place to be than in His arms!



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Helen Bagnato - June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ Marlene will be missed.

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Robert and Sieglinde Schnellbacher - June 11, 2021 at 12:00 AM

HO

“ No more suffering, no more pain...heaven is your gain. Rest In Peace.

Love,  
The Olsons

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**Hank & Esther Olson** - June 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

TO

“ I have just heard today if this lovely ladies passing. We were friends from island towers. Marlene was so very kind to me after the death of my mother Delphine. You will miss this lovely and vibrant woman. May your lives be filled with many loving memories.

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**terry Oscarson** - June 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Mrs. Lee- Your vibrant, celebratory life influenced our family deeply! Your encouraging word, bright smile and positive attitude made us all feel like we were the most important people on the planet, and that we could accomplish anything! Thank you for your faith in Christ and His goodness, which inspired us all! We will miss you but know you are FEASTING with the King and enjoying every second of it! Love you! The Schmidt family (David, Jean, Peyton, Max, Sam, Josh and Esther.

P.S. Soooo grateful Esther got to go to Carnegie Hall with you:)



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**David & Jean Schmidt** - June 10, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Mrs. Lee, my mentor, my "musical mom", my dear friend!

*She was the reason I pursued a career in early childhood music education 20 years ago when she introduced me to Musikgarten! She trained me how to run a music studio, I became her assistant 6 years ago and she is the reason I am where I am today, leading the pre-k/elementary music classes at Hand in Hand Christian Montessori. She has modeled a Christian example of parenting/marriage, daily devotions, holding high standards of excellence, expecting good manners, belief and commitment to her family and faith and represents an uncommon generosity, a passion for teaching, commitment to health & wellness (Melaleuca, Zumba!), enjoying good food, good company and celebrations!*



*It is with sadness that I say goodbye to sharing those occasions with her, as I had the last 6 years, but look forward to carrying on her legacy in our music classes and celebrating her life!*

*I owe her a debt of gratitude for investing in me, my family (Musikgarten, Montessori, piano lessons, choir, Ukulele...) and the countless others whose lives have been impacted by her faithfulness.*

*Matt 25:23*

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**Julie Erickson** - June 09, 2021 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ It is sometimes hard to believe in a miracle working God, when we pray and pray and the miracle doesn't turn out the way we wanted it to. But Praise God, He has given us many examples in the Bible, to show us that we can trust Him, even when our emotions and understandings are threatening to drown out our faith in His love. I will be praying that God will protect your whole family from any root of bitterness that might temp you all. How wonderful it will be, when we all get to Heaven and see how God was working it out for those of us who are His children.

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**Jeannene C. Forshee** - June 08, 2021 at 12:00 AM