



## Marlys Diekoff

September 15, 1939 - February 13, 2026

Marlys Diekoff, 86, died peacefully surrounded by family on Friday, Feb. 13. That Friday afternoon, it felt as though gravity loosened its grip for a moment, as the universe had to steady itself again after losing her. Born on Sept. 15, 1939 in Forest Lake, Marlys entered the world that she delicately shaped with her radiance, love and grace.

On April 8, 1961 she chose her greatest companion in life, Paul Diekoff. Together they shared a beautiful partnership that would span nearly 66 years. They had a bond and created a story that is not only measured by time, but by devotion, strength, and a quiet, but everlasting choice to walk hand in hand through life together.

Marlys did not view service and volunteerism as an obligation, but as an extension of who she was. Her commitment was obvious through her steady involvement in the Early American Glass Club, the Philanthropic Educational Organization (PEO), the Jane Austen Society of North America (JASNA), the University of Minnesota Women's Club, the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), she was also a Girl Scout leader and was a member of the St. John the Baptist parish for over 50 years.

Outside of her commitments and volunteerism, her devotion was always to her family. She was a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother to her four children, seven grandchildren and great-grandson. Her love was always present and showed itself faithfully in bleachers, auditoriums, arenas and graduation ceremonies. Nothing brought her greater joy than to see her children and grandchildren grow fully into their own lives.

Her family describes her often as radiant, steadfast, sophisticated, adored, humble and fierce.

Marlys is preceded in death by her father John Richard Brehm, mother Mary Blanche Brehm and brothers LeRoy Anderson Brehm and Lowell Jerome Brehm.

Marlys is survived by her husband Paul and children Shellie (Steve) Matthes, Sheryl Diekoff, Paul Jr. (Lori) and Sheila (Rick) Thorud, Grandchildren Brittany Diekoff, Amanda Matthes, Helen (Andrew) Trapp, Melissa Thorud & Nick Ulmer, Hallie Diekoff & Justin Langer, Nick Thorud, Paul Diekoff III and great-grandson Hans Trapp.

Funeral services will be held on Saturday, Feb. 21, at St. John the Baptist Church in New Brighton. Visitation at 10 a.m., Mass at 11 a.m. and a luncheon to follow. A livestream of the funeral will be available at <https://stjohnnb.com/>. If you wish to send flowers please send to St. John the Baptist Church in New Brighton.



# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **21**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
835 2nd Avenue NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112

## Memorial Service

FEB **21**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
835 2nd Avenue NW  
New Brighton, MN 55112

# Tribute Wall



“ *Minnesota Big Snow purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Marlys Diekoff.*



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**Minnesota Big Snow** - February 20 at 09:29 AM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marlys Diekoff.*



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February 18 at 05:32 PM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Marlys Diekoff.*



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February 18 at 03:05 PM

DJ

“ I will miss Marlys so much. She was a faithful P.E.O. and joy to serve with. She was full of ideas for programs and always opened her home for meetings and LUNCH! Tea parties were my favorite times as she displayed her dishes and glassware. She always had a smile and a story to share about her family and experiences. What a loyal friend who asked how you were. Well done good and faithful servant of the Lord. Sympathy to Sheila and Shellie two shining stars. Blessings Deb Johnson



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**Deb Johnson** - February 17 at 05:02 PM

AD

“ All my love, Steph Davis planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marlys Diekoff.

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**All my love, Steph Davis** - February 17 at 04:08 PM

AD

“ All my love, Steph Davis purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Marlys Diekoff.



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**All my love, Steph Davis** - February 17 at 04:08 PM