



Mary Katherine Berken

August 13, 1943 - June 2, 2026

Mary Katherine, a devoted mother, grandmother, sister and friend, passed peacefully on June 2, 2026, at age 82. Born August 13, 1943, in St. Paul, she lived a life shaped by compassion, resilient spirit and unwavering commitment to family.

Early Life and Family

Mary was the daughter of the late Joseph and Agnes Rechiene. A graduate of Our Lady of Peace High School, she trained as an LPN at Miller Hospital. Mary married Bob Berken on June 17, 1963; together they raised three children: Rick, Cheri and Dave. The couple shared 23 years of marriage until Bob's unexpected passing on May 25, 1983. Mary's youngest son, Dave, also passed unexpectedly on May 19, 2018.

Personal Life and Passions

Known for her candid nature and lively sense of humor, Mary enjoyed a rich social life. She participated in bridge groups, the Red Hat Society, bowling leagues and nurses' luncheons with fellow LPNs. Gardening and tending flowers brought her particular joy.

Legacy and Remembrance

Mary's greatest pride was her family. She is survived by her children-Rick (Laurie) and Cheri (Tim)-and her grandchildren Chad, Luke and Carter. She is

fondly remembered for simple pleasures: ice cream, scenic car rides, time at the cabin and her affection for cats.

Service Information

A private service will be held for family to honor and celebrate Mary's life.

Final Thoughts

Mary's strength, warmth and generosity left a lasting impression on all who knew her. Though deeply missed, her love and spirit endure in the hearts of family and friends.