



Mary Cathy Calgren

December 29, 1946 - February 11, 2026

Mary Cathy Calgren (née McCuen), age 79, of Edina passed away on February 11, 2026 from complications of a major stroke she initially endured in 2017.

She is survived by her loving husband of 58 years, Robert Calgren; her daughter Megan (James) Holroyd; her son Kevin (Sonya) Calgren; her sisters Cynthia McCuen and Joanie Wexler; her nephew Matthew (Taylor) McCuen; her grandchildren Owen Holroyd, Dylan Holroyd, Clara Calgren, and Henry Calgren; her great niece Emilia McCuen; her great nephew Carson McCuen, and many special cousins. Mary is preceded in death by her father, Charles "Chick" McCuen, and her mother, Lois "Jane" McCuen.

Mary was born in Des Moines, IA on December 29, 1946. After graduating with honors from New Trier High School in Winnetka, IL, she attended college at Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. She majored in French, and finished her last year of college at Chapman University in Orange, CA to complete her elementary education degree.

At Macalester College, Mary met her husband Bob. When he was drafted into the military, they moved to Denver, CO where they were married at the Lowry Air Force Base. Later, they lived in Merced, CA, but eventually raised their children and enjoyed retirement in Edina, MN.

Mary was an avid reader who had an enormous library of cherished books. She had so many books her grandchildren nicknamed her "Grandma Books." She enjoyed volunteering at the Edina libraries, and sitting on their boards. Mary also participated in the Edina Federated Women's Club, and developed dear friendships with people in the community. She was a great writer of correspondence, and even after a debilitating stroke, she sent thousands of cards to friends and relatives over the years.

Mary especially loved young children. She worked as a part-time preschool teacher, but spent most of her time as a stay-at-home mother. She frequently volunteered at her children's schools. In her young adult life, she helped women at the hospital learn Lamaze techniques for childbirth. What brought the most joy to Mary was being a grandmother to Owen, Dylan, Clara, and Henry. She loved taking them on special adventures and spending time with them.

Mary will be sorely missed by her friends and family. A special thank you to all the doctors, nurses, and aides who worked tirelessly to help Mary with her complicated health issues. In her last days, we were especially thankful to the staff at Minnesota Hospice and York Gardens Assisted Living for keeping her as comfortable as possible.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Mary's name to Friends of the Edina Library, 5280 Grandview Square, Edina, MN 55436.

Private interment will take place.

Memorial services will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2026 at 11am, with visitation at 10am, and reception to follow the service at:

Washburn-McReavy.com

Edina Chapel 952-920-3996

5000 W 50th & HWY 100

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 7. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Memorial Service

MAR 7. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Reception

MAR 7. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Tribute Wall



“ Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels created a Memorial Service for Mary Cathy Calgren in memory of Mary Cathy Calgren



Washburn-McReavy - February 16 at 02:33 PM

CA

Argh! She was a lovely woman! One should proofread before hitting "share!"

Carol - March 01 at 07:11 PM

DR

My truest friend since third grade, despite multiple moves, always keeping in touch with her beautiful hand written letters! I've got a box of those letters, going wayyyy back and so many memories of Grays Bay. Mary was such a special, caring, witty and charming gal. I send much love and caring to Bob and the family.

Diana M Rodum - March 07 at 11:54 AM

MR

“ *A group of us from the Friends of the Southdale Library used to meet for dinner. Mary had been a faithful member of the Board and had helped with many book sales. She always brought her cheerful spirit to our gatherings.
I'll miss the cards she continued to send over the years. She was a lovely person. My sympathy to Bob and the rest of the family.
Mary Rogers*

Mary Rogers - April 19 at 10:49 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Cathy Calgren.



March 06 at 03:23 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Cathy Calgren.

March 06 at 03:23 PM



“ I first met Mary at Macalester College in 1967 when she was one of Bigelow Hall's residence directors. Through the years, we've kept in touch by phone calls, written notes, visits, and trips with Bob to American Players Theatre. She was a lovely women! Many condolences to Bob and the rest of her family.

Carol Moertl - March 01 at 06:58 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Cathy Calgren.



February 26 at 01:21 PM

LW

“ Mary was always so caring and thoughtful with our whole family. Making the time and energy to have routine breakfast get-togethers when I would come home from the West Coast, I know she would ask about me and my little ones, and it was always the very best treat when I would get a hand written letter from her. Every time I got a letter I would feel so valued and remembered. She made me feel valued. Mary was so giving to us as children when we used to be neighbors when I was so little. She was loved, adored and is greatly missed - people miss you Mary, far and wide you are missed, remembered and will always be valued. Sending love to the Calgren family. <3 Giving Bob the biggest hug.

Liv Woodstrom - February 24 at 06:41 PM

BR

“ Mary was the mom of Megan, a best friend to many of us growing up. She made the best grilled cheese I'd ever had, told us not to pull our eye lids when applying liner or it could cause more wrinkles and never complained when we sang and danced to the top of our lungs in the basement. It's been years and years, but a Mom who was part of the village that raised you is never forgotten. Rest in peace Mary. May all of the good memories brighten your days to those who loved Mary.

Barbara Ruhland - February 20 at 07:28 AM

LI

“ We are so sad to lose Mary and send the Calgren family our love and prayers and sympathy. We met Mary when we moved into Morningside with our young family and the Calgren family were our next door neighbors. My first impression was that we hit the jackpot being their friends and neighbors. Though the decades of our friendship, I have always been amazed at Mary’s particular gift to connect with people and be a friend extraordinaire , her ability to communicate an interesting germane anecdote, listen in a way few people ever can, and to be kind and supportive always. Her love and appreciation of her family was always her biggest joy. Even after her stroke, she was always “still Mary” and not diminished by the price her illness was taking on her body. The notes she sent in later years brought so much joy to me and everyone else she wrote to. They were an example of her courage and the fact that no matter what, she was” still Mary” and made the lives of everyone she touched better. Our whole family will miss her and we are blessed to have had her as our friend. Linda and Roy

Linda - February 15 at 07:59 PM

DI

“ Mary was one of my very first friends at McAllister College. We lived next-door to each other and shared a number of classes as I was also a French major .When Bob and Mary got married at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado her friend Carol and I flew to Denver for the wedding .

Dianne - February 15 at 05:33 PM