



Mary Elizabeth Nielsen

October 8, 1943 - April 16, 2026

Mary Elizabeth (Roth) Nielsen of Bloomington, Minnesota, passed away peacefully on April 16, 2026, at the age of 82, surrounded by her family. She was born on October 8, 1943, in Minneapolis to Gertrude (Kairies) and Charles Roth, and grew up on Xerxes Avenue in South Minneapolis with her brothers, Michael and Edward. Mary attended Holy Angels in Richfield, an all-girls school at the time, graduating in 1961.

While in high school, Mary enjoyed a sweet courtship with a handsome young man named Pete. On April 18, 1964, Mary and Peter Allen Nielsen were married. Together they built a life in Bloomington, raising their two children, Lisa and Todd. Mary was a devoted wife and mother who kept a warm and welcoming home. Her family will always remember her traditional dinners, especially her homemade spaghetti and meatballs, Chicken à la King hot dish, and hamburger pie.

In their early years, Mary and Pete shared fond memories working together at Red Owl. She later worked for more than 30 years as a legal secretary for attorney Gerald Dederick, where she became known for her remarkable ability to interpret his cryptic handwritten notes.

Becoming "Nana" to her granddaughters, Beth and Kate, was one of Mary's greatest joys. She played a central role in their lives, hosting sleepovers, tea

parties, shopping trips, museum visits, and outings to parks. Her annual Christmas cookie day-featuring spritz, thumbprints, mint surprises, and sugar cookies-was a treasured tradition. Mary was a steady and loving presence, sharing her appreciation for reading, music, and the importance of kindness and good manners.

Mary was also a talented artist who took classes at the Edina Art Center. She had a gift for oil painting, especially still life, with an eye for detail and realism. True to her humble nature, she rarely considered her work finished, finding it difficult to sign a piece and call it complete.

Mary and Pete spent winters in Fort Myers, Florida, where they enjoyed their condo at the Lexington Country Club, warm weather, and staying active in golf leagues. They loved socializing with old and new friends, sharing dinner dates, and playing cards together. They also enjoyed traveling, exploring many parts of the United States and around the world, from Alaska to Europe and Asia.

Mary was the epitome of style and elegance. She was lovely, graceful, and always impeccably dressed for any occasion, carrying herself with natural poise. Mary was intelligent, kind, and quick to offer her warm smile and gentle sense of humor that made others feel at ease.

After a fall resulting in a brain injury, Mary was cared for by the compassionate hospice team at M Health Fairview Southdale Hospital. Her family is deeply grateful for the care and kindness shown to her in her final days.

Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Gertrude and Charles; her brother, Michael (Ruth) Roth; and her special aunt, Lucille Kairies. She is survived by her husband, Peter; her children, Lisa (Michael) Johnstone and Todd (Kara) Nielsen; her beloved granddaughters, Beth and Kate Nielsen; and

her brother, Edward (Sharon) Roth, and many nieces and nephews.

A private Celebration of Life will be held in Mary's honor.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a charity close to your heart.

Tribute Wall

JM

“ I met Pete and Mary over 50 years ago at my mother's house in Minneapolis on 14th Avenue. I was in high school and my brother, Eddie, used to host elaborate dinner parties and they were included. I remember Mary as the most beautiful woman. She and Pete made such a lovely couple and they were as kind as they were beautiful. I always thought it would be wonderful to look just like Mary.

Ed and Danese - Pete and Mary. Wonderful friends for years and years. I'm sorry you lost your partner, Pete. Mary was a gift to her friends and her family. Kind, caring, and beautiful inside and out.

God speed, Mary. Peace and blessings to you Pete. I hold you in my heart.

Jane Anderson McCormick

Jane McCormick - April 23 at 11:11 AM

LS

“ Mary was an elegant woman with style and grace. She and Pete were friends of my brother Ed Anderson and of his wife, Danese. I have fond memories of both Pete and Mary, and this picture of her shows how timeless and gracious she was and that's how I will think of her.

May her family find comfort in good memories of time with Mary, and I send my deep sympathy to Pete, her devoted husband of so many years. Peace and blessings to you at such a difficult time.

Libby Swanson

Libby Swanson - April 22 at 04:33 PM