



Mary Jean Talaska

December 27, 1953 - January 10, 2026

Mary Jean Talaska, 72, of Shoreview, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 10, surrounded by the love of her family.

Jean was born on December 27, 1953, in St. Paul, Minnesota, to Mary Ann and Harold Klecker. She grew up in the Frogtown neighborhood alongside her five brothers, forming deep family bonds that would remain central throughout her life. Jean attended Saint Agnes school and graduated in 1971.

She found joy in life's simple pleasures-being outdoors, arts and crafts, thrifting, and spending time in the kitchen cooking and baking for those she loved. Above all else, Jean's greatest passion was her family. She cherished her roles as a devoted wife, loving mother, and proud nana to her ten grandchildren. Jean will be remembered for her strong faith, gentle kindness, quick humor, and creative spirit.

Jean is survived by her beloved husband of 45 years, Skip Talaska; her children, Millie (Jeron), Ben (Colleen), Anna (Dan), and Laura (Patrick); and her treasured grandchildren, Jack, Brooke, Henley, Faye, Banks, Jude, Phillip, Perry, Truett, and Louisa. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary Ann and Harold Klecker; her in-laws, Gilbert, Vernie and Ruth Talaska; her brother Jim; and her sister-in-law, Jeanie.

A visitation will be held on Monday, January 19th, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapel in Shoreview, Minnesota. A Celebration of Life will follow on Tuesday, January 20th, at 11:00 a.m. at the Charleston Event Center in White Bear Lake. Additional details are provided below.

Washburn McReavy Funeral Chapel
515 Highway 96 W
Shoreview, MN 55126

Charleston Event Center
4525 White Bear Parkway
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Cemetery Details

St. Mary of the Lake Cemetery (White Bear)

1707 Stillwater Street
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN **19**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel
515 Highway 96 West
Shoreview, MN 55126

Tribute Wall

TW

“ Teresa and Loy Lau, Andy, Eva and Winnie purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Jean Talaska.



Teresa and Loy Lau, Andy, Eva and Winnie - January 19 at 11:52 AM

AW

“ Alexa W. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean Talaska.

Alexa W. - January 19 at 09:58 AM

JK

“ Jostyn Kohner purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Jean Talaska.



Jostyn Kohner - January 18 at 07:29 PM

JE

“ Julie Moley and family, Jeff Ellingson planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean Talaska.

Julie Moley and family, Jeff Ellingson - January 17 at 12:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Jean Talaska.*



January 17 at 12:23 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Jean Talaska.*



January 17 at 10:12 AM



“ *Condolences and prayers to Jeans family. As a previous co-worker, I had the pleasure of hearing about her love for all of you. She was always friendly and uplifting to everyone. She always asked how coworkers were doing in their lives and offered encouragement to all.*

She asked her friend group if they had people they wanted added to the Rosary prayer group. That provided much peace and comfort to some of my friends and family.

Mary is a true servant of the Lord. She has touched many lives and will always be remembered.

Carla Tobin - January 16 at 02:32 PM

OF

“ *Original Mattress Factory purchased the Rose Remembrance for the family of Mary Jean Talaska.*



Original Mattress Factory - January 16 at 01:51 PM

PR

“ *Preco planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean Talaska.*

Preco - January 16 at 01:50 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Jean Talaska.*



January 16 at 01:50 PM

SZ

“ After we lost Abby, at Jack's 2nd birthday party, Jean went out of her way to give me a baby gift (a baby blanket). She knew my world was crushed and this pregnancy (Natalie) was another chance at a family for me. As my sister in law's mom, I sure didn't think she would she would need to give me anything. But that's the kind of person Jean was...empathetic, thoughtful, and keenly aware of when hope and light was needed. I was scared of how I would handle that day as of celebration for Jack without Abby there, but this baby gift from Jean at his party allowed me to see my new hope and a way forward. I carry that memory with me always!

Sam Zander - January 15 at 12:45 PM

BJ

“ Bob, Sandy, Amy and Justin purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mary Jean Talaska.



Bob, Sandy, Amy and Justin - January 15 at 12:43 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Jean Talaska.



January 14 at 10:56 PM

DF

“ I am so shocked and sad to hear of cousin Jean’s passing. She was a special person. We would try to always get together for lunch when I was in town and we’d laugh and laugh and talk about our children and family. They were the most precious part of her life. The world was a better place with Jeanie in it and I will miss her tremendously. Donna

Donna Finnegan - January 14 at 08:55 PM

CT

As a former co-worker of Jeans I will always remember how friendly she was to everyone, asking about their daily lives. She talked about her family with such love and I remember hearing her stories, as our lives were similar.

She readily added people in need of prayer to the prayer circle from her Rosary group and I can say that that brought so much comfort to me and my friends and family. She is a true servant of the Lord. My prayers and condolences to her family.

Carla Tobin - January 16 at 02:03 PM

VA

I worked with Jean at University Hospitals back in the '70's. Even back then she was a kind, loving and caring person.

Her love of Elvis Presley was legendary. When he died we all thought she would be devastated. Instead, she smiled, that "Klecker smile" and said, "Well, he's in a much better place now and went on with her day.

As time went on, Jean married and raised a beautiful family. They meant the world to her. May she rest in eternal peace.

Vickie Assad

Vickie Assad - January 17 at 12:44 PM