



## Mary Ellen Zak

April 6, 1949 - January 30, 2026

Zak, Mary E (Rockne), 76 of New Hope, MN passed on January 30, 2026. She is survived by her husband Dave of 53 years, children Lisa (Robb) and David, grandchildren Ariel and Emily, and brother, Tom Rockne (Sheila). Mary loved reading, traveling, The Beatles, British television, flowers, tea, and encouraging her children to be problem solvers. She was kind, curious, hardworking, compassionate, and an extraordinary advocate for herself and others; a strong role model for her children and grandchildren. Mary graduated with a degree in English from the University of Minnesota in 1971, where she met Dave. She and her family traveled extensively throughout the United States. Mary started her career in administration, and lived with Dave in Chicago and Buffalo, NY before settling back in MN. After their children were born, she served as a member on her church's Board of Directors and the New Hope Planning Commission for nearly a decade. She earned a Master's in Special Education in 2005, and a specialization certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorder in 2007. She worked as a special education teacher at Chanhassen Elementary School, specializing in children with autism spectrum disorder. She retired in 2019. Many thanks to the Woodlake at New Hope staff for their care - especially her primary aides. Thank you also to staff and providers with Park Nicollet Hospice. A celebration of life is planned for Summer 2026.

# Cemetery Details

## **Glen Haven Memorial Gardens**

5125 West Broadway  
Crystal, MN 55429