



Orville C. "Joe" Hognander Jr

November 19, 1942 - May 31, 2025

Orville C. "Joe" Hognander, Jr, a valued friend of the Twin Cities cultural arts community, passed away on May 31, 2025, after a long illness. He was preceded in death by his parents, Orville and Gertrude Hognander; and his devoted partner of many years, Nadia Christensen.

Joe was born and educated in Edina. After graduating in 1964 from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA, he attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and briefly worked for Black & Decker in Dallas, TX. Upon receiving notification from the draft board that he would soon be called to service, he applied to and was accepted into Naval Officer Candidate School in Newport, RI. He served in the Navy for 21 years, including serving as head of the translation division for the U.S. military command in South Vietnam prior to the withdrawal of American troops.

Following retirement from the Navy, Joe returned to the Twin Cities to care for his parents, to manage the family investments, and to carry on his parents' philanthropy. His parents instilled in Joe a lifelong interest in classical music and the cultural arts. Through the Hognander Foundation and his personal philanthropy, Joe generously supported many of our most cherished organizations including the Minnesota Orchestra and the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Minnesota Public Radio, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, the Minnehaha Academy, Augsburg University, the American Swedish Institute,

the American-Scandinavian Foundation, the Minnesota Historical Society, and Twin Cities Public Television.

A Celebration of Life will be held at the American Swedish Institute (2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis) on Wednesday, July 16 at 1:30 p.m. Memorials preferred to the donor's choice.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUL 16. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

American Swedish Institute
2600 Park Ave
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Tribute Wall

LB

“ I had the pleasure of meeting Joe in 2001. We shared many lovely lunches, dinners and other events over the years while living in Pebble Beach. He was a loyal friend and I will miss him!

Linda Bishop - September 21, 2025 at 01:34 AM

KM

“ Even though Joe was very physically uncomfortable during his last few months, I remember one Friday morning when I shared with him about taking my daughter to the Chanhassen Theater to see "Grease"! He perked up right away & I could see his blue eyes twinkling with joy. I had a glimpse of what Joe must have been like in earlier years as we shared his enthusiasm for all experiences musical! It was a special morning. He loved fresh fruit-especially watermelon. I was privileged to be one of his helpers on Friday mornings through an organization 'Seniors Helping Seniors'. I will remember Joe.

Kathy Mende - June 16, 2025 at 05:38 PM