



## Sandra Lou O'Neil

September 21, 1936 - October 5, 2023

Sandra "Sandy" Lou (Tietge) O'Neil, age 87, of Shoreview, MN, passed away peacefully on October 5, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. Sandy was born on September 21, 1936, in Sioux Falls, SD, the first child of four of Harold and Cozy (Miller) Tietge. Mom/Gram, was the glue that held our family together for over 65 years. She had a beautiful life, loved her family deeply, and had many life-long friends with whom she kept in touch. She will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her.

The Tietge family moved to Eau Claire, WI in 1952 when Sandy was a sophomore in high school. Feeling quite down on her luck that first weekend in her new town, her aunt and mother convinced her to attend the "Youth Night" at First Presbyterian Church in Eau Claire. It was at this gathering that Francis "Gene" O'Neil saw who was to become his bride of over 65 years. Sandy finished high school and was accepted into the nursing training program at Macalester College in St. Paul in conjunction with Abbott Hospital in Minneapolis graduating with her RN in 1957. By this time, Gene had served his time with the US Air Force, and they were married on December 28, 1957. Sandy worked as a labor & delivery nurse while Gene attended college at UW - Eau Claire. Once he graduated in December of 1961, they moved their young family to Roseville, MN. Sandy continued her career in labor & delivery at Bethesda Hospital in St. Paul for a few years before "retiring" to stay-at-home mom for the first years in Roseville, raising three boys and a girl. Designing and building the first family home in Shoreview on Nottingham

Place in 1969, she and Gene would make that their home until 1983.

Once the kids got older, she partnered alongside Gene at The Energy Shed, Franchise Forum, and Short-Term Furnished Housing. In her later working years, she got back to the healthcare world that she missed and spent several years in the patient quality management department at St. John's Hospital in Maplewood, MN.

In her "spare time" she golfed, bowled, fished, and spent many hours at the hockey rinks and swimming pools watching her kids and grand kids. She was a founding member of a now 60 year old book club with friends, volunteered at Presbyterian Church of the Way, made world-class peanut brittle for friends & family during the holidays, and was a skilled seamstress. She also demonstrated a talent for house design building a second home in Shoreview, and a lake home on Red Cedar Lake in Birchwood, WI. She and Gene travelled the world for the past 20 years with four trips to her "adopted" homeland of Ireland, to her ancestral home country of Denmark, also South America, the "Band of Brothers" European tour, The Panama Canal, Alaska, and several other destinations.

Sandy is survived by her loving husband of 65 years Francis (Gene) O'Neil; children Mike (Susanne), Steve (Christine), Dave (Betty), and Sara (Rich) Fish; grandchildren Rebecca, Katherine, Madeline, Nick, Megan, and Sandy; siblings Mike, Dennis (Mary Jo) Tietge, and Cheryl Riley.

The family would like to thank the incredible staff at Our Lady of Peace Hospice for their attentive, supportive, and dignified care during the final 11 months of her battle with pancreatic cancer. In lieu of flowers, the family would encourage donations be made in Sandy's name to Our Lady of Peace Hospice, the American Cancer Society, or The Mayo Clinic Memorial Service 11 AM Friday, December 1st (visitation 10-11AM) at Presbyterian Church of the Way, 3382 Lexington Ave., N., Shoreview. Interment Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

# Tribute Wall

BB

“ Thankful and grateful for the influence the O'Neil's had on my life. Only as one ages and reflects, does one realize, and mostly likely only superficially, how lucky they are that they were surrounded by good people that helped mold them and helped the development of their Moral code, integrity, that your word and a handshake mean something, work ethic, decisions, etc ....and to enjoy it

Grateful for all you did for me that I can remember, and for the things you did that I don't remember.

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**Bill Bergstrom** - December 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ This was a favorite of my mother, Margaret Kleese

*This is a fragile time...  
A time to be gentle with yourself  
And to give your heart permission  
To grieve, to feel, to remember*

*Strength and hope will come again,  
But for now...  
Do what you need to do to honor this sorrow,  
Letting your heart and spirit heal*

*All our love to you and your family,  
Greg and Anngie*

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**Greg and Anngie Kleese** - December 01, 2023 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ *Our deepest condolences to you and your family.*

*See you at the service.*

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**Michael & Susan Lavelly** - October 28, 2023 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *It's been a sincere pleasure to have known my Best Friend (Gene) since 1949 and Sandy, when she arrived, at ECSHS! Despite the distance between us, annual class reunions, phone calls and cards have been our links! It's also been a pleasure to learn of their commercial successes and travel accomplishments, that are so impressive! We are saddened by Sandy's early passing, but remember so well the pleasant last dinner in St. Paul!! Our condolences to Gene and his family at this time, and Best Wishes for the years ahead!! - Jim & Jill*



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**Jim Nichols & Jill Plant** - October 28, 2023 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ *So sad to hear about Sandy! We were next door neighbors on Nottingham Place, Shoreview. This was our first house, we totally enjoyed Sandy & Gene as neighbors! We had a wonderful neighborhood! Our daughter Chris was the same age as David and caught the bus tougher Sandy was the most wonderful person...she will be missed! Love Sandy & Jerry Crest*

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**Sandy Crest** - October 20, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MF

“ It is hard to lose a Dear Friend. Sandy brought so much joy into so many people's lives. We were able to travel as couples and spent many night in their home while visiting from AZ in the summers. So many fond memories. Love and peace Dear One. Margaret

Margaret Foderberg - October 19, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RB

“ So sorry for your loss. Sending thoughts and prayers to the family. She will be missed.



Rick & Laurie Berken - October 16, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ Sandy was my caring wonderful friend through the years. Invited me to her family holidays as my children did not live in Minnesota

Marie Hammond - October 13, 2023 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Was so sad to hear of Sandy's passing. I worked with her at St John's where she took me under her wing as I was returning to work after raising kids for 10 years. She was a great lady!

Chris Keane - October 13, 2023 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ I enjoyed every day working with Sandy. A friend she quickly became that lasted thru the years. An amazing woman full of love for her family and friends. My sympathy to her wonderful family, God's peace and comfort.



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**Renee Salzbrenner** - October 12, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Sandy was a wonderful coworker and friend during her years at St. Johns. I am grateful we had a chance to have lunch earlier this year. Sandy was a friend, inspiration and shining light. May you be comforted during this time, until you meet again.



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**Kathy Miller** - October 09, 2023 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Sandy was a dear coworker and friend. We did get a lunch in this year. Grateful for that opportunity. Praying for your comfort and peace with this loss. Sandy was an inspiration and light to those around her.



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**Kathy Miller** - October 09, 2023 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ Dear Sandy's family, I know that I'm one of many(!) who loved having Sandy in our lives. The book club has been important to me, as is the friendships that exist between our children. I thank God for Sandy and am so very sad that she isn't with us now...



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**Mary Rehwaldt** - October 07, 2023 at 12:00 AM