



## Shirley Margaret Gaynor

May 7, 2018

Gaynor, Shirley Margaret Born to Jacob and Mary Karrels on June 24, 1927, in Chicago, Shirley Margaret Gaynor (née Karrels) was the seventh of eight children. Shirley lived life to the fullest as an adventurous, independent woman of exceptional strength, courage, and grace. She often said, "Every day has its beauty." The arts opera, ballet, music, theater, and museums played a big part in her life until the final days. Shirley was passionate about learning: she put herself through Mundelein University, became a teacher, and up until the end remained curious and eager to learn. A vivacious and engaging conversationalist, Shirley was genuinely interested in others. On July 11, 1953, Shirley married Gerard (Gus) Gaynor in Port Washington, WI. While raising their seven children, Shirley was also active in the World Affairs Council and the League of Women Voters. The family moved to Italy in 1972; Shirley made it an adventure for the whole family, wholeheartedly embracing the culture and "la bella vita." In Italy, Shirley was a charter member of the Milan Lioness Club and active in the Milan Italian American Club. Swimming, walking, traveling, and reading (three newspapers a day!) kept her vibrant and healthy until she was diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2017. Shirley passed away on May 7 at age 90 in Minneapolis. Shirley will live on in the hearts of her husband, Gus; their seven children: Mary Gaynor (Steve), Ann McNichols (Richard), Virginia Gaynor (Wayne), John Gaynor (Sarah), Margaret Tillery (Gary), Katy Gaynor, and Rosie Gaynor (Toby); and their seven grandchildren: Charles Marini, Frances McNichols, RJ McNichols, Alex Gaynor, Ethan

Gaynor, Grant Tillery, and Jeffrey Tillery. Shirley is preceded in death by all her siblings except Dorothy Ryan. The family extends sincere thanks to all the caregivers from Fairview Hospice and especially to nurse Kathy Roman. Private memorial to celebrate Shirley's life. Washburn-McReavy.com Davies Chapel 612-377-2203