



## Susan Marie Steffen

January 12, 1945 - November 4, 2025

### Susan Marie (Peaks) Steffen

Susan Marie Steffen passed away at her home in Minneapolis on November 4, 2025. She was 80. A memorial service will be held on May 16, 2026 at 2:00PM at Mount Olivet Church in Minneapolis. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service at the church. For those unable to attend the service in person you will be able to attend virtually at: <https://mtolivet.org/live/>

Born on January 12, 1945 in Chicago, Illinois to Lyman and Elizabeth Peaks, her birth certificate initially read "baby girl" while her father served in the Navy in the South Pacific during World War II.

Susan spent her childhood between Chicago's northern suburbs and a lake cabin in Chisholm, Minnesota. When she was 16, her family moved to southern Illinois where her father worked in farm insurance. Susan was a bright student, graduating from University High School in Normal, Illinois, and later earning her bachelor's degree in mathematics from Carleton College in 1966, where she met her future husband, John K. Steffen. From 1966-1967, Susan earned a Master's degree from the Sorbonne in Paris, where she developed lifelong friendships and an enduring affinity for French culture, food, and language.

Susan's dedication to volunteering dates back to these early years, when both

she and her husband John served in the Peace Corps from 1968-1969, teaching English in a rural city in South Korea of one million people and no indoor plumbing at the time.

In 1969, the couple moved to Minneapolis, where Susan worked for the Star Tribune newspaper handling statistical analytics for the subscriptions department while John attended law school. She later took a senior position as a software developer and international trainer at the firm Control Data, achieving a remarkable career at a time when relatively few women worked in the field. She later developed a passion for education, earning a teaching degree from Hamline University and leading classes on information technology, mathematics (including in French), and French language to elementary and high school students at several schools in the greater Twin Cities area. She also taught classes at an English as a Second Language (ESL) local high school.

Outside of work, Susan lived an active and engaged life. A graceful athlete, she was an accomplished golfer and a member of the University of Minnesota Women's Alumni Golf Association. She and John played frequently at Headwaters Country Club, competing in a variety of tournaments. She enjoyed skiing, swimming, and cycling, regularly participating in the Headwaters 100 bike ride, and even in her mid-60s could be found waterskiing around Big Sand Lake with no hands and only her foot in the towrope.

Beginning in the 1980s, Susan and her family spent their summers at their cherished lake cabin, where they developed a tight-knit network of close friends who became like second family.

Susan is survived by her brother John, his wife Lynn and their daughter, Irene; her daughter, Elizabeth Steffen Scheler and her husband, David, and their

children, Jack and Emily; her daughter, Christine Steffen and her partner, Matthew Keith, and their son, Peter.

# Upcoming Events

## Visitation

MAY **16.** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)  
5025 Knox Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55419

## Memorial Service

MAY **16.** 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church (So. Mpls)  
5025 Knox Avenue South  
Minneapolis, MN 55419

# Tribute Wall

CH

“ *Carmen Herea sent a virtual gift in memory of Susan Marie Steffen*



---

**Carmen Herea** - April 26 at 11:31 AM

CH

*The Memorial Tree planted by my husband Viorel H is in Susan's memory from LEAP staff and their families who had the opportunity to know her. RIP*

---

**Carmen Herea** - April 26 at 11:33 AM

VH

“ *Viorel H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan Marie Steffen.*

---

**Viorel H.** - April 26 at 11:26 AM

CH

“ *I will cherish forever your guidance, friendship, care, and help. I miss already our time spent on the Math Alley on the first floor at LEAP talking about our classes, joking to make the days go by easier, sharing life memories and wisdom. You will always be in my heart.*  
*Carmen*



---

**Carmen Herea** - April 24 at 08:44 AM

CH

“ 4 files added to the album LEAP



Carmen Herea - April 24 at 07:53 AM

SL

“ Your love and compassion for immigrant students meant so much for LEAP High School students and staff.



Sophorn Lissick - April 23 at 03:40 PM

SB

“ Sharon Brennan purchased the Country Basket B looms for the family of Susan Marie Steffen.



Sharon Brennan - November 22, 2025 at 03:24 PM

SB

“ Sharon Brennan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Susan Marie Steffen.

---

Sharon Brennan - November 22, 2025 at 03:24 PM

SB

“ You inspired with your wit and endless energy. You and others at the headwaters 100 inspired me with your friendship. You were like family and I miss you.  
Sharon



---

Sharon Brennan - November 21, 2025 at 07:29 PM