



## Violet Wangensteen Magnuson

July 26, 1927 - February 24, 2024

Magnuson, Violet Josephine Holcomb Wangensteen, also known as "Scottie," "Sweet Violet," "The Queen" and "Baby Grandma," was a force of nature who passed away in Woodbury, MN on February 24, 2024 at the age of 96.

Violet, a striking woman with a fun-loving disposition, was born on Rice Street in St. Paul, MN to Mary and Walter Holcomb on July 26, 1927. In 1955, she married Miles J. Wangensteen who loved to tease her about being a "Rice Street girl." Violet was of impressive intellect, insatiable curiosity and artistic talent. She enjoyed telling grandkids that she skipped a grade and graduated from Washington High School when she was 16 and a member of the drum corps line. She loved nothing more than hosting parties, especially ones with loud music, dancing, libations and an occasional person jumping out of a cake. (It was the sixties, after all.) In 1962, Violet and Miles built a cabin, doing most of the work themselves. The cabin became a refuge for the entire family. There, she found pleasure designing, painting, improving the cabin, swimming, conducting her synchronized water aerobics exercises, riding the pontoon with margaritas in hand and blasting her boom box. She played it non-stop with her eclectic taste in music - funk (her favorite), jazz, classical, and much to her kids' and grandkids' chagrin, German polkas. Violet was an amazing cook and baker. She turned out gourmet meals, which family and friends enjoyed. Violet's popovers and banana cake were repeatedly requested.

After Miles' unexpected passing in 1982, Violet carried on and focused on keeping the family together. While working for the University of Minnesota, Duluth, as an executive assistant to the dean of the College of Science and Engineering, she met and married John Magnuson. Violet and John had a lot of fun together enjoying extensive travels, exploring the Scottsdale, AZ area near their condo, spending a lot of time at the cabin and attending Minnesota Vikings football games.

After John's passing in 2010, she bravely lived on. She purchased a baby blue convertible VW bug and buzzed around in it like nobody's business. Violet never let age define her. At 84, she got her first tattoo. She rocked a bikini well into her 90s.

Violet is survived by daughters Kristen Sandager (Thomas), Kari Wangensteen (Mark Jensen), son Martin Wangensteen (Johnna), stepson Rex Magnuson (Charmaine Takemoto), grandchildren Nora Durkin (Michael), Sara Sandager, Karl Sandager, Miles R. Wangensteen (Katherine), Olivia Wangensteen, William Jensen, great grandchildren Louis Durkin, Thomas Durkin and Evelyn Wangensteen, and other beloved family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, her spouses, and her siblings and their spouses Earl Holcomb (Roswitha), Gertrude Holcomb, Julia Fern (William).

Rest in love, Baby Grandma. Her kindness, take-charge attitude, fierce loyalty and love is missed more than anyone can imagine.

A special acknowledgement and thanks to the wonderful caregivers at Artis who helped Violet this past year and to the Gentiva hospice team for their loving care and support.

A memorial service will be held Friday, March 22, 2024, at Holcomb Henry Boom Purcell funeral home in Shoreview, MN at 11:00 AM. Visitation will take place one hour prior to the memorial service and a light luncheon will be served after.

Interment at Fort Snelling will be held on a later date.

Memorials are not necessary but, if you're so inclined, would be welcomed by Open Hands Midway, an organization that provides food and resources to those in need in the Midway area. [OpenHandsMidway.org](http://OpenHandsMidway.org).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 22. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel  
515 Highway 96 West  
Shoreview, MN 55126

## Memorial Service

MAR 22. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel  
515 Highway 96 West  
Shoreview, MN 55126

## Reception

MAR 22. 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM (CT)

Shoreview Chapel  
515 Highway 96 West  
Shoreview, MN 55126

# Tribute Wall

CB

“ *What a special lady! She leaves quite a legacy and inspiration for enjoying life to the fullest despite difficult times. I will always remember how much fun she was to be around, so full of life! The obituary really painted a picture of her essence; intelligent, fun-loving, caring, creative, and her love of family and friends. Praying that all the good memories bring you peace.*

*Love, Cindy*

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**Cynthia Bekkedahl** - March 21, 2024 at 11:55 AM

CB

“ *Cindy and Bill Bekkedahl planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violet Wangensteen Magnuson.*

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**Cindy and Bill Bekkedahl** - March 21, 2024 at 11:33 AM

CB

“ *Cindy and Bill Bekkedahl purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Violet Wangensteen Magnuson.*



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**Cindy and Bill Bekkedahl** - March 21, 2024 at 11:33 AM

RC

“ *Rex and Charmaine planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Violet Wangensteen Magnuson.*

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**Rex and Charmaine** - March 20, 2024 at 06:32 AM

RC

“ *Rex and Charmaine purchased the Strength & Solace Spray for the family of Violet Wangensteen Magnuson.*



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**Rex and Charmaine** - March 20, 2024 at 06:32 AM

AF

“ *Ann Durkin & Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Violet Wangensteen Magnuson.*



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**Ann Durkin & Family** - March 16, 2024 at 02:45 PM

RP

“ *Violet was always a fun lady and I remember dinner at her home in Roseville. What a great hostess. She is now reunited with her parents and siblings and I'm sure brother Earl is convincing Violet to make him her delicious Popovers.*

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**Richard Purcell** - March 01, 2024 at 08:48 PM