

Lois Draayer DT News Dec 2, 2009

Lois Vivian Van Wyk Draayer, 65, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Lois passed into eternal life unexpectedly and tragically on Nov. 19, 2009. She will be missed deeply by many to whom she was a constant source of strength and help, most of all her beloved



L. Draayer

husband of 45 years, Jerry, and her three daughters, Leah, Sarah, and Martha. She will be remembered as beloved "Oma" by her eight grandchildren whom she loved with all her heart. Above all Lois loved the Lord Jesus and served him all her life through her gifts of hospitality, friendship, music and prayer.

Lois's roots are in rural Iowa but she moved with Jerry to Baton Rouge in 1975. She was a 1962 graduate of Lynnville-Sully High School in Sully and attended Oak Hills Bible College in Bemidji, Minnesota, and was trained as a licensed practical nurse in Ames, Iowa. After marrying Jerry in 1964, the couples lived in Ames, Iowa; Copenhagen, Denmark; Ann Arbor, Michigan; and Rochester, New York, welcoming their three daughters while Jerry pursued an academic career in nuclear physics before settling in Baton Rouge. In Baton Rouge, Lois enjoyed a 30-year career in real estate and was known affectionately at "Mama Lois" by her colleagues at C.J. Brown Realtors.

Lois never knew a stranger and was generous to all in need. She prepared countless dinners and celebrations for Jerry's many graduate students and colleagues at LSU. She opened their home to numerous internationals, church groups, the university community, Katrina refugees and even a Nobel laureate. She served her church family at University Baptist for 33 years. Lois also served the community in numerous educational, musical and humanitarian organizations, including the Baton Rouge Symphony, the Louisiana Youth Orchestra, the Junior Great Books program, the Baton Rouge Board of Realtors, the Campus Club and Chapter K of PEO. Lois was loved by so many because she was a servant to so many.

Lois was preceded in death by her father, Wilburn Van Wyk. She leaves behind her mother, Frances Van Wyk of Sully; her husband, Jerry Paul Draayer of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; her four brothers and sisters, Vernon Van Wyk of Grinnell, Bruce Van Wyk of Colorado Springs, Colorado, Louise Walling of Austin, Texas, and Barbara Johnson of Woodbury, Minnesota; her three daughters and their husbands, Leah and Patrick McDowell of Jackson, Mississippi, Sarah and Brent Milligan of Nashville, Tennessee, and Martha and Kyle Duncan of Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and her eight grandchildren, Jamey McDowell, Claire McDowell, Ben Milligan, Anna Kate Milligan, Meghan Milligan, Joseph Duncan, Thomas Duncan and Michael Duncan.