

Karen Ann Voecks ^{GH-R} 2-12-2018

Karen Ann Voecks, age 80, passed away suddenly in her home in Grinnell, Iowa, on Wednesday, Feb. 7, 2018, from heart failure.

A celebration of life will be held at the United Methodist Church in Grinnell, Iowa, on Friday, February 16, 2018, at 10:30 am followed by a luncheon. A visitation will be held at the Smith Funeral Home in Grinnell on Thursday, February 15, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm. A private family burial will be held at Jackson Township Cemetery in Montezuma, Iowa.

In lieu of flowers, please address memorial donations to the P.E.O. Foundation, 3700 Grand Ave, Des Moines, IA 50312 (www.peointernational.org). Memorials and condolences may be shared with her family online at www.smithfh.com.



Karen was born January 14, 1938, to Theodore and Gertrude Jenson, in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and had an older brother Jon Jenson. She graduated from Shorewood High School in Shorewood, Wisconsin, in 1956. She then went to University of Wisconsin, where she met Dan Voecks on November 27, 1957, during a blind date. They were engaged exactly one year later. There is no doubt that Karen and Dan were soul mates and were deeply devoted to one another. She and Dan lived in Des Moines and West Des Moines, Iowa, while Dan worked at Homesteaders Life Company. She had a daughter, Elizabeth, on February 6, 1960, and a son, Daniel, on August 25, 1962.

She was active at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church where her angelic voice was often heard above the rest. She was a regular volunteer at Iowa Methodist Hospital, where she led the "Festival of Trees" fund-raising initiative, and was very involved with the gift shop. In addition, she was a leader in the P.E.O. philanthropic organization, where she recently received her 50-year membership recognition. She completed her degree in 1978 from Drake University, and went on to teach Montessori school in West Des Moines. Karen spent most of her spare time at Lake Ponderosa in Montezuma, Iowa, where she spent time with her friends, family, and four grandchildren. She and Dan moved to Lake Ponderosa after Dan's retirement. They joined the United Methodist Church where they regularly performed with the "Clowns for Heaven's Sake" outreach group, bringing smiles to everyone around them. After Dan's passing in 2002, she moved to Seeland Park in Grinnell, Iowa. In her later years, she remained very active in the community, enjoyed playing bridge, danced with the Seeland "Parkettes," and loved to visit her children and grandchildren in Minnesota and Colorado.

Karen was fiercely devoted to her family and always provided unconditional love. She laughed harder than our jokes deserved. The kitchen was always loaded with special treats for any family gathering. Her knitting, crochet, jewelry making, hardanger, and many other crafts always yielded special gifts for family and friends. Her smile would light up and command any room. That room would often include a game of hearts, or bridge, or gin, or boggle that could include "composite" scoring, that could extend for days or even weeks. Karen was a special daughter, sister, mom, grandmother and friend. The legacy of unconditional love she has left her family is truly priceless.

Karen is survived by her two children, Elizabeth (Joseph) Dunsmore of Shorewood, Minnesota, and Daniel (Michele) Voecks of Lafayette, Colorado; and four grandchildren, Matthew, Kaitlyn (Erik), Daniel, and Michael. She was preceded in death by her husband, Daniel, in 2002.

GRINNELL RESIDENT

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