



June Lois (Een) Peterson

JUN 15, 1927 - OCT 9, 2015



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June Lois (Een) Peterson, 88, died peacefully on Oct 9, 2015. She was born on June 15, 1927 in a predominantly Swedish neighborhood in Chicago, IL, the beloved daughter of Carl and Mabel (Carlson) Een who predeceased her. June was also preceded in death by her infant brother Roy. She was baptized, confirmed and married in Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Chicago. She attended Trumbull Elementary School and Senn High School. She is survived by her husband Norman, their children Paul (Tamara), Little Rock, AR; Diane Day (Keith), Omaha, NE; Nancy Damon (Don), Darien, IL; Sue Ostoin (Keith), Muskegon; Alice Routley (David), Big Rapids. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, 2 nieces, a nephew and beloved cousin Edythe Hinkston. She graduated from the Augustana School of Nursing in 1949 as a Registered Nurse. In her career she worked at the VA, in a TB ward and as a private duty nurse. In 1951, June married Norman G. Peterson. When she was expecting their first child, she left nursing. In 1957, they and their growing family moved to Big Rapids. Leaving family, friends and familiarity with big city living behind, they started a life in the small, rural town. June was always the gravitational force of the family and the one who knew what was going on, when and where. She was curious, with her interests focused on people and discovering more about them. She encouraged learning and education of all subjects but with great appreciation of the fine arts. For years, she attended the Grand Rapids Symphony and their many venues and looked for chances to include a grandchild to encourage their appreciation of music. Though she had a piano and could play, she resumed lessons as an adult. Her appreciation of the arts was at a very personal level as she made sure to attend performances of grandchildren at band concerts and in plays. In her 80's, she even got on stage in the local production of "Music Man". Fulfilling a lifelong dream of learning Swedish, in her 70's she joined a Swedish language class and a Swedish American group. Opportunities abounded for Swedish cultural



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activities. Another dream was fulfilled when she had the opportunity to visit and explore Sweden. She was delighted to be at and take pictures of those places she had seen in her father's photographs. From an early age, June loved to travel. As a teenager, she talked her mother into taking her by train to visit relatives in Florida and California. As her children grew up and ventured off into other locations, she took advantage of the opportunities to visit them throughout the US, Mexico, Italy, Greece and Israel. June always believed in getting to know the area in which you live. As a result, the family frequently toured areas accessible as "day trips" and counted on traveling somewhere for a summer vacation. She also believed in keeping one's passport up to date "just in case". Purchasing a large travel trailer in the late 1970's added a new dimension to their traveling, exploring the US from coast to coast. The love of God and church was the cornerstone of June's life. For more than 50 years she attended St. Peter's and became involved in many social activities, including singing in the choir, serving as secretary in the LWML and as a trustee at Prince of Peace chapel. Nothing was more important to her than her family. She did not hesitate to move her widowed elderly father from Chicago to Michigan, incorporating him into a household of 5 children and becoming his caregiver until his death at age 93. She set a wonderful example of caring and compassion. She was very close to her cousin Edythe; they shared a love of adventure and travel. They were both the sister that neither of them had, and though Edythe lived in California, they communicated often and visited whenever possible. Grandchildren gave her great joy. It was easy for the new parents to have June help because of her sensibility and nursing background. She waited in the hospital for many of them to be born and made her way into the delivery room for five of them. When her first was born in Florida and her fifth was born in Mexico, she was thrilled to both travel and see her new grandchildren shortly after their birth. She participated in as many of their events as was possible, from t-ball to their weddings. Embracing Swedish tradition, she was called Mormor by 9 of her grandchildren and Farmor by 3 of them. Toward the end of her life she remained a vital connection for the whole family. Right to the end, she loved to find humor in things and to be involved in conversation. Her last day was spent with daughters and her husband chatting, remembering, laughing, and she smiled along



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with them. Modest and humble, we will miss her zest for life, love of family, laughter, medical expertise and her wit. Her independent spirit and practical, commonsense will live on in all our memories. Her husband Norman, children Paul, Diane, Nancy, Sue and Alice will hold her forever in their hearts and daily lives. Funeral service for June will be 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Big Rapids with Pastor John Bookshaw officiating. Interment will follow at the Highland View Cemetery. June's family will greet friends today (Monday) from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids, and also one hour prior to the service at the church on Tuesday. Memorials contributions may be made in June's name to Mercy Health VNS and Hospice of Muskegon, or to the St. Peter's Lutheran Church Service Guild or Choir Fund with envelopes available at the funeral home. Her Grandchildren: Yasmin, Esther and Nathan Peterson Pete Jefferson (Sara) Scott Jefferson (Becky) Kirsten and Eric Damon Jean Routley-Robinson (Kelly Robinson) Julie Routley Daniel Routley (Calen) Nick Routley (Nicole) Marcus Routley (Brooklyn) Her Great Grandchildren: Austin and Braiden Peterson Caleb, Luke, Leah, Sam, Liam, Seth Jefferson Finley Robinson David, Nicholas, Riley Jo, Charlie Jo and Bristol Routley Her Nieces and Nephew: Carol Baum Wendy Kellett Jim Baum



Tribute Wall

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FH

Fred Hinkston posted:

We live by the grace of God . When our work on earth is done he calls us to rest .Remember her for who she was, caring and kind to others. You have been blessed by her presence, go out and spread the good news, may her memory be with you always.

November 18 at 8:00 PM

MF

Matt And Holly Stubbs And Family posted:

June will be dearly missed. Our love and prayers to all of the family. May each of you find the comfort she found in her faith and may the love of Christ sustain each of you. Our deepest sympathies. Love The Stubbs Family

October 18 at 8:00 PM

BV

Bette M Belic (Vanwestrienen) posted:

Prayers for your family Diane. I remeber singing in choir with her for many years!

October 16 at 8:00 PM

JB

Julie Haggin Bonkowski posted:

To Norman, the "girls" as well as the son, and their families...that Jack and I send our heartfelt condolences. June was one I listened to with regard for our sons, Mark and David. She was a "grand" mother and I respected her so for that.

October 15 at 8:00 PM

TP

Tamara Peterson posted:

June, You were a wonderful mom and mother-in-law. You will be missed but never forgotten. Forever you will be in my heart and I will see you again!!!

October 12 at 8:00 PM

KK

Kirk Kuske posted:

So sorry for your loss Norm. Keeping you in our prayers. Kirk

October 11 at 8:00 PM



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AH

Alice Howe posted:

My thoughts and prayers are with you at this sad time.

October 11 at 8:00 PM

RW

Robert J. Williams posted:

To the Peterson; It was with great sadness that I learned of your mothers death. The world has lost a fine person. You have my deepest sympathies. R. J. "Coach" Williams

October 11 at 8:00 PM

IN

Ingrid posted:

dear diane im with you and your family in that dificult time love ingrid

October 11 at 8:00 PM

LG

L Gray posted:

My condolences to the family at this very difficult time. Please accept my deepest sympathy for your loss. May you find comfort in Gods word the Bible at Revelation 21:3,4.

October 10 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring June by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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