

The Endowment

When you get what you want
in your struggles for self
and the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to a mirror and look
at yourself and see what that
man has to say.
For it isn't your father
or mother or wife whose
judgement you have to pass.
The fellow whose verdict
counts most in your life
is the one staring back from
the glass.

-ANONYMOUS
(Katie's favorite poem)



Kathy enjoying the scenery at White Bear Lake.

In honor and remembrance of Katherine Maryann Rasmussen, her cousins have established the Katherine Maryann Rasmussen Memorial Scholarship Endowment through the UND Foundation.

Contributions to the Katherine Maryann Rasmussen Memorial Scholarship Endowment can be made through the UND Foundation.

This academic scholarship is provided to one or more high achieving and qualified students enrolled within the Department of Physician Assistant Studies at the UND School of Medicine and Health Sciences. Recipients shall be of high moral character and demonstrate the potential to lead successful lives and careers.

Three scholarships will be awarded annually. If you believe you are eligible for this scholarship, please apply online through www.UND.edu/scholarship-central. You will need to provide a narrative describing how you fulfill the requirements for this scholarship and include future plans to continue to meet the mission of the Department of Physician Assistant Studies.

The Katherine Maryann Rasmussen Memorial Scholarship Endowment



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A Caring Heart

Born in 1935, Katherine, called Kathy or Katie by her friends and relatives, grew up in Grand Forks. She was the child of Carl and Ebba Rasmussen, longtime residents of the city. Kathy attended elementary and secondary schools in Grand Forks, graduating from Grand Forks Central High School in 1953. She enrolled at the University of North Dakota to pursue a degree in nursing. While at UND, Kathy joined the Alpha Phi sorority, an organization which was always important to her. After attending UND for two years, she moved to the Twin Cities area in Minnesota and began working at a medical facility. She soon met her husband-to-be Alfred Lorentzen and they were married in 1956. Kathy then chose to be a stay-at-home mother.

“Katie had more personality than anybody. Everybody who knew her loved her.”

— Elaine Wold, cousin

Always a Friend

From the time she was a little girl, Kathy's friends were extremely important to Kathy. Lorna Berge, '58, '94, grew up in Grand Forks, as well, and remembers meeting Kathy for the first time in Sunday school when they were five, and so their lifelong friendship began. “We just giggled our way through our teen years,” Lorna said.

Although many of Lorna's memories of Kathy involve her wonderful smile and laugh, she also remembers Kathy's ability to create lasting and caring relationships.

Kathy's cousin Dr. Sidney R. Wold, '55, said, “Katie was a real gem, a nice lady and a nice mother. She never had a bad word for anybody.”

Elaine Wold, widow of Dr. Keith C. Wold, '49, added, “Katie never met anyone she didn't like, and everyone who knew her loved her.”

Kathy had a genuine fondness for UND. Even though she moved away from North Dakota in her early twenties, she remained proud of Grand Forks, UND, and her sorority.

When people asked her where she was from, Kathy would always tell them Grand Forks.

Kathy was very active in her church, singing in the choir and being an active participant in Friends, an outreach program that helps others. She and her family enjoyed spending time with friends, traveling, camping, and fishing. She was a competitive angler who got satisfaction out of catching the biggest and the most fish. Out-fishing everyone always made Kathy smile.

Kathy's husband Alfred lives in Hopkins, Minnesota. Their older son David, his wife Susan, and children Jennifer and Michael live in Leonardtown, Maryland. Their younger son Keith lives in Grygla, Minnesota.

Kathy was diagnosed with cancer in the fall of 2004. During the final months of her life, she lived at her aunt May Wold's home on White Bear Lake, her favorite place in the world. Sally Burton, a friend of Kathy's for many years, spent hours with her during these months talking,

watching sunsets, and watching soaring eagles and loons swimming on the water. “Even though Katie knew she was dying, she always had a positive attitude and could make us laugh,” Sally said.

On March 14, 2005, after a courageous fight with cancer, Kathy died at the lake home that she loved so much.

Kathy's smile, laugh, sense of humor, and caring personality will always be remembered by her family, friends, and everyone she met.



Kathy (far left) and some of her closest friends.