



Carol Walker Ryan

January 25, 1937 - January 25, 2017

Carol Walker Ryan died unexpectedly on January 25, 2017, her 80th birthday. Carol was born in Belleville, IL and entered the University of Illinois, where she joined Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, starred as the ingénue soprano lead in several of the university musicals, and in 1959 graduated Phi Beta Kappa, having majored in English. She went on to earn a Master's degree from the University of Hawaii and worked as a teacher and an assistant to a US Congressman. In 1962 she married John Ryan. Their life together took them to Tulsa, OK, where their sons Bill and David were born. They later moved to the Philadelphia suburbs where she focused on raising two wonderful sons, now living with their families in Denver, and volunteering extensively in the community. In 1988 she and John amicably divorced. In 1991 she and Norman Racine, her college boyfriend, reunited and became a life-long couple, living in St. Charles, IL and Bonita Springs, FL and traveling the world together. Carol earned an additional Master's degree in Pastoral Counseling, became a substance abuse and bereavement counselor, and carried on this practice for the rest of her life. She was a wonderful communicator and helped many people in many different ways.

Carol was known to her extended family and grandchildren and to her many friends as a kind, thoughtful, loving and spiritual person capable of enlivening any group with her unflagging cheerfulness, deep faith and her wry humor. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her partner

Norm Racine, his four daughters (Leslie Patty, Mary, Miki) and spouses and 9 grandchildren; her two sons (Bill and Dave), their wives and four grandchildren; her brother Bill Walker, his wife, their two children and spouses and two grandchildren; and her first husband, John Ryan and his wife.

Services will be held 11:00 a.m., Thursday, February 2, 2017 at St. John the Evangelist Church in Naples, FL and at a later date in St. Charles, IL.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church
625 111th Ave N
Naples, FL 34108

Tribute Wall



“ *Carol Walker Ryan*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Dearest Norm and family,*

We lived next door to both Norm and Carol from 2007 until 2012.

Mary and George Barbes.

I had tried to email Carol yesterday which bounced back and then googled her to find this.

Sad, and shocked... to hear of her passing.

She was a dear neighbor, we enjoyed her friendship and yours.

Carol was probably the kindest person I have ever met.

And, was happy to do anything for her.

If you or anyone in your family reads this, please let me know where Norm is.

I don't normally lose touch with people, so am so sorry I let time slip by with Carol.

My phone is 612-963-7637 and live now in Geneva, IL.

My email is mbarbes@yahoo.com.

Would love to get in touch with Norm just to say hello and thinking of you.

Sincerely,

Mary and George Barbes.

We loved being your neighbors.

Mary and George Barbes - November 12, 2017 at 07:41 AM

RH

“ Dear Norm and Family--

So very sad to get the news of Carol's tragic death. I sent condolences to her email address, and a card to St. Charles. Carol played a significant role in my life. It was 1959 in Honolulu when Carol introduced me to her Kappa sister Mary Narland, and 18 months later we married.

After Mary's passing in 2015 Carol and I had a thoughtful email correspondence about life and love and loss. When I got the terrible news last week, I reread our messages. It was wonderful to reconnect with "an old friend" as our dialogue was meaningfully comforting.

I wish you peace and understanding as you contemplate and face your new reality.

*With heartfelt sympathy,
Richard Hackenberg
hackenbergs@comcast.net*

Richard Hackenberg - February 06, 2017 at 07:13 PM

AH

“ *My sympathy to Carol's family. A life gone too soon.*

I met Carol when I became a member of P.E.O. Chapter MW in St. Charles. She will be missed by many people. Truly an accomplished lady.

*God Bless.
Ann Hammond*

Ann Hammond - February 02, 2017 at 04:09 PM



“ *Peace Eternal Wreath was purchased for the family of Carol Walker Ryan.*



February 01, 2017 at 01:51 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carol Walker Ryan.*



February 01, 2017 at 11:52 AM



“ *Beautiful picture and obituary about our dear Carol, our sister-in-law. We are thinking of all of you each and every minute. Brings back memories of our Ragan and the senselessness of so many things we cannot explain or fix. Our hearts ache for you and we are crying too. Our love, Tom and Emily*

emily ryan - February 01, 2017 at 06:43 AM



“ *It's said that the character of a person is reflected in the impression they leave on their family. Carol was a rich woman indeed. I'm happy to have known her character through her family's happiness and generosity.*

Jason Lunday - January 31, 2017 at 02:37 PM