



Phyllis Opel Marek

1939 - 2015

Phyllis (Sarafolean) Marek, age 76, of Mason City, Iowa, (formerly of Hudson, Wis.), beloved mother, devoted grandmother, and great-grandmother, was born Jan. 31, 1939. She died peacefully March 23, while vacationing in Florida with her family.

Phyllis was born in Butte, Montana. She was raised in California and Washington state. She graduated from Edmonds High School. In 1958, Phyllis married Dan Sarafolean from St. Paul, Minnesota. Together, they farmed and raised five beautiful daughters in Baldwin, Wisconsin. Phyllis earned her degree in Library Science from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls and developed wonderful programs for the St. Croix County Library System.

Phyllis and the family moved to Hudson, Wisconsin, for her position at Hudson Public Library; she loved helping others find their way through knowledge and books. In later life, Phyllis worked for The BSA Northern Star Council in St. Paul and Kraft Foods in Mason City, Iowa.

Phyllis enjoyed reading, recipe testing, and traveling with family. She was a Master Gardener and spent as much time as possible in her yard. She was a generous supporter of children, animals, and her community.

Phyllis is survived by her daughters, Sherry (Gary) Peacock, Katy (Kevin) Kapaun, Dana (Tom) McKenna, Helen (Jack) Conley, and Elizabeth (Fred) Kamm; grandchildren, Jennifer, Juliana, Ryan, Alison, Jessica, Lindsay, Kyle, Matthew, Michelle, Kelsey, Alexander, Jacob, and Rebecca; step grandchildren; great-grandchildren; extended family and treasured friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Bruce; and her grandson, Travis.

Family and friends are invited to a Celebration of Life from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday, April 11, at The Hazel Mackin Community Library, 311 W. Warren St., in Roberts, Wisconsin.