



Betty J. Van Gorkom

July 16, 2022

Betty Jean Van Gorkom, age 101, passed away peacefully at home on July 16, 2022.

She and her husband, Jerome Van Gorkom, who predeceased her, were happily married for 56 years.

She is survived by her two children, Gayle Richardson and Lynne Villalobos, by her sister, Grace Van Valkenburg, by her grandchildren Judy Bourguoin, Julie DeMarco, Charlotte Troilo, Russell Richardson, Wesley Richardson, Alexandra Sumnar, Gerard Villalobos, Anna Munoz and Francis Villalobos, by 18 great grandchildren and one great great granddaughter, each of whom was the apple of her eye.

Always moved to serve family and community, she was selflessly committed to strengthening civic pride and spreading music appreciation throughout the city of Chicago. She served with distinction on several boards including the Lyric Opera Center for American Artists, Know Your Chicago, the Ravinia Festival, the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University and was the first woman trustee of the Northwestern University Board. She was a member of the Vestry at The Church of the Holy Spirit and the founder of their Music in the Nave program.

We will always remember her gentle spirit, steadfast faith, and love. In the end, love is all.

Services will be held at The Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest. In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations to the Church of the Holy Spirit, Lake Forest, Lyric Opera of Chicago or the Bienen School of Music at Northwestern University.