



Suzanne "Sue" Karen Henderson

December 25, 1935 - April 13, 2024

Suzanne "Sue" Karen Filek Henderson, age 88, of Lake Bluff / Lake Forest, IL passed away peacefully on April 13, 2024 surrounded by family and friends.

Sue was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin, the oldest child of Dr. Allan and Meta (Johnson) Filek. Suzanne and her late husband Philip of 55 years, took tremendous joy in raising their children, participating in the grandchildren's events and overly committing to community involvement. She enjoyed traveling the world, exploring museums and taking her children on long road trips to countless National Parks.

After graduating from West High School in Madison, Wisconsin she started her freshman year at the University of Arkansas and subsequently completed her Bachelor of Science at the University of Wisconsin. She pledged to Kappa Kappa Gamma and participated in all the activities that Madison had to offer. She loved waterskiing and skating on the lake in the winter. Upon graduating, she moved to Chicago to work at Time, Inc. and lived at the Eleanor Club, which was a dormitory for women in the 1960's where she developed lifelong friendships. Eventually marrying Philip, whom she'd known since grade school, she started her family and they danced through life together. Phil's career led them to Park Forest, Geneva, Illinois, Richardson, Texas and her last move to Lake Bluff, Illinois where she and Phil lived for 45 years. In retirement, they spent the Chicago winters in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii watching

the sunsets, exploring the Big Island and enjoying the lack of snow shoveling.

Sue was an avid tennis player and enjoyed playing against her sons until they could outrun her. It was at this point she took up golf, which she enjoyed through retirement at Knollwood Country Club having been a member for forty-five years. Prior to Knollwood, Phil and Sue were members of Geneva Country Club, Bent Tree and Canyon Creek clubs. She was a dedicated volunteer who served as a Republican Committee Poling Coordinator for numerous elections. She tirelessly supported Lake Forest High School, having sat on several committees as a liaison between parents and teachers and eventually completed two terms as a school board member. Sue described her years on the board as her “dream job” and distinguished herself as an effective advocate for the teachers and students. She served as a docent for countless fund-raisers, belonged to Questors (antique group), LIFE (Women’s financial group) and a PEO member. Sue and Phil were long time members of Connoisseurs International, Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Lyric Opera of Chicago. Throughout her life Sue was a collector of friendships. She invested in relationships and along each stop of her wonderful journey, added a variety of people to her never-ending Christmas card recipient list. Sue was a force in life with boundless energy that she directed towards helping others. In short, Sue was a thoughtful and selfless giver.

Suzanne is survived by sons William George (Cristi) of Seminole, FL, Brian David (Anne) of Nichols Hills, OK, daughter Karen Anne (Timothy Smith) of Dallas, TX and four grandchildren: Lindsey Brooks (Scott Shimp), David Allan (Morgan), Nicolas George and Devin Paul. She was preceded in death by her parents Allan and Meta Filek and brother Richard Filek.

A private family ceremony will take place in Madison, WI.

The Family wishes to extend their sincere gratitude to Dr. Steven Lasin and

the staff at Forward Focus Concierge Medicine, who provided compassionate care, Dr. Matthew Adess, Highland Park, IL and the entire community of health care professionals, the staff at Balmoral Nursing Home, Lake Forest Place and JourneyCare Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to PEO at <https://www.peointernational.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Individual-Donation-FillableForm-February-2024.pdf>, Heifer International, <https://fundraise.heifer.org/fundraiser/5444251> or JourneyCare Foundation at <https://journeycare.org/donate/>

For more information - Reuland & Turnbough Funeral Directors of Lake Forest (847) 234-9649 or www.RTfuneral.com

Cemetery Details

Roselawn Memorial Park Cemetery

401 Femrite Drive
Monona, WI 53716

Tribute Wall

JN

“ I was a longtime teacher at Lake Forest HS and consider Sue to have been an exceptionally fine, caring and conscientious member of the district's school board during her time of service. I will always remain grateful for her steadfast support and for her being a paragon of empathy and integrity.

Jonathan J. Neumark - April 30, 2024 at 12:37 PM

TH

“ We were so saddened to receive the news of Sue's passing. She was a huge supporter of LFHS' Music Department and all LFHS Programs. Sue was always so kind to me and my family and we loved receiving her Christmas letter and her homemade Holiday Chutney every December. Sue had the gift of making all of us better human beings through her friendship and community work. Sue will be missed and we will think of her often. The Henderson family is always in our prayers.
Sincerely. Tim, Gretchen, Austin and Aubrey Haskett

Tim Haskett - April 29, 2024 at 08:51 AM

LV

“ Oh dear Karen. I loved your mom. She (along with Mama Turelli) were my favorite moms in 35 years of teaching at LFHS. She was a wonderful lady in every way and loved her kids like a mama bear. Please get ahold of me. My email is: lbrunet47@yahoo.com. Or call/text at 847-507-5577.

linda verbeke - April 24, 2024 at 11:42 AM

AJ

“ We will truly miss this dear woman. It was an honor to know Sue since the 1990s. Thanksgiving time will always remind us of her kindness in sending us her special homemade cranberry sauce for many years. She loved Lake Forest High School, and her devotion to her family was always impressive. May her goodness live on through them.

Amy and Bill Jackson

Amy Jackson - April 23, 2024 at 10:36 AM

JG

“ To the Henderson family —
Sue was a dear friend, a strong Republican, and an intelligent and sweet woman. I always enjoyed being around her and hearing about what she was doing in her busy schedule. She and Phil would always look so tanned after returning from Hawaii.

I will miss her. Once she moved to Lake Forest Place, I didn't see her as much. Sue will always be in our hearts.

*Jan Gibson
Lake Forest*

jan Gibson - April 23, 2024 at 08:38 AM

NA

“ You have my sincerest sympathy. I met Sue through Questers. Sue was vibrant, welcoming, and interesting. I so enjoyed her friendship. Your mom's oatmeal cookies and banana bread recipes have become a favorites in our house. I'm sure I will remember her often when I make them. I am sorry for your loss. Nora Ancona

Nora Ancona - April 20, 2024 at 08:30 PM

JC

“ Sue and I go back a long way to Geneva. We exchanged babysitting - Markus when I substituted in schools and Karen when she attended her many volunteer meetings. Our boys, Brian and Mike, were the same age and we were den mothers together. Sue was my role model - she made me look like I was standing still. I loved her newsy Christmas letters. May she rest in peace.

JoAnn Cregier - April 20, 2024 at 09:28 AM

VF

“ I Always Remember Mrs Sue told me a story of her and her husband (MrPhil)when they were in Spain and Followed a Church Procession !and when she visited Oklahoma she was Always a very Kind Person to me and Always asked me for my Daughter also she liked Charlie🐶 her Son's and Daughter in-law dog (Brian and Anne) I also remember how beautiful she looked at Lindsay's wedding ! I was Honored and blessed to knew Her !❤️She was a Wonderful Woman! May she Rest in Peace 🙏 in God's Glory! 🙏 My Condolences to All her Family 🙏🌸

Vicky Frayre - April 19, 2024 at 11:05 PM

JU

“ My husband and I knew both Sue and her husband in Kona. A warm, generous, kind friend. Julie and Frank

Julie - April 19, 2024 at 10:12 PM