

Sigrid Hanson Jensen Aug. 7, 1936- Feb. 28, 2017



Sigrid Hanson Jensen passed away peacefully at age 80 on Feb. 28, 2017, in Sarasota, Fla. She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Frederik W. Jensen; son Russell and wife Terri of Des Moines, Iowa; son Nels and wife Joan of San Diego; daughter Kristin of Sarasota; grandchildren Emily Wheeler and husband Josh of Charlotte, N.C.; Kristin Jensen of Ankeny, Iowa; Max Jensen of Boston; Kerri Jensen of Warrensburg, Mo.; and Paul Jensen of San Diego; brother-in-law Frank Clayton of Toronto; and 15 nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Russell and Stella Hanson, brother James Hanson, and sisters Mary Crownhart and Karen Clayton.

Sigrid was born on Aug. 7, 1936, in Fond du Lac, Wis. Her father, a judge, and her mother were two people of the highest integrity and the foundation and role models for her life, marriage and family. She graduated high school from Wayland Academy in Beaver Dam, Wis., and from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in Elementary Education. Upon college graduation in 1957 she joined her new husband in Okinawa, Japan, where he was stationed in the Air Force. Her journey from Madison to Kadena Air Base provided stories she would share for the rest of her life.

Their first child, Russell, was born at the base hospital. She and Fred in 1960 returned to Madison, where he attended law school and they had their second son, Nels. They moved in 1963 to Neenah, Wis., for Fred's job at a local bank. They had their miracle child, Kristin, who was born two months prematurely and with cerebral palsy. Sigrid and Fred moved back to Madison in 1969, and she began her tireless work to ensure her daughter had every opportunity for education and success in life. She succeeded.

They lived a block from her sister, Mary, and shared many holidays and family activities. Sigrid enjoy golf at Blackhawk Country Club, playing cards and being part of a close circle of couples. The family spent many summer weekends at her mother's cottage on Lake Winnebago just northeast of Fond du Lac. Sigrid and Fred retired to Sarasota in 1999. They were active in the Meadows community, where Sigrid played golf and was a loyal friend to many. They adopted the staff of the country club dining areas as a second family; at some point the staff began looking after them. They celebrated every weekend with Saturday lunch at the Hob Nob diner, where Sigrid enjoyed Fish N Chips and a glass of Cabernet served in a coffee mug. Sigrid loved cruising, which took them to Alaska, Norway, England and many trips to the Caribbean. She took great pride in her children's careers and their families and closely followed the exploits of her five grandchildren. A breast cancer survivor, she lived a full and active 80 years until finally resting in God's arms.