

Trudy Bangsberg Obituary

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Gertrude (Trudy) Borgne Bangsberg (nee Moe) left our earthly world on Tuesday, October 25th on Holy Island on Long Lake (Sarona, WI) at the age of 97. Trudy was born on August 18, 1925, to Sigurd and Maria Moe in Graceville, MN, graduated from Colfax (WI) high school, and was a 1948 graduate of St. Olaf College. She married Harry F. Bangsberg on August 10, 1952 and moved their growing family to follow Harry's career in higher education from Iowa City to Eau Claire to Madison to St. Louis, and finally to Bemidji, MN in 1964, when at age 36, Harry became president of Bemidji State College.

Widowed at age 40, when Harry died in a 1967 plane crash in Vietnam with a team of U.S. Educators, Trudy never complained about the hardship she endured. She had five children (aged 3-13) to raise. Motherhood was her calling and she became the best mother she could be. She moved her family back to Madison (WI) to be near cousins and her sister, Elsa. As the children settled into high school and beyond, Trudy worked at Oakwood Village including three years as Director of Development. In 1989, she left Madison for her beloved Holy Island but continued to work as a Board Member of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin for years.

Trudy lived her life with love and grace. She was a lover of her lake, literature, loons, and lefse. She was an accomplished pianist, scrabble player, crossworder, endless volunteer, and as the daughter of a Lutheran pastor, a strong woman of her Lutheran faith. She surrounded herself with music, books, her dear friends, and most of all, her family. She found beauty in the ordinary: a snowstorm, a fire on a winter's night, the calling of the loons, the falling leaves, and in the miraculous: the infinite stars in the heavens and the northern lights.

At the age of 97, Trudy still lived in her own home and swam each summer morning. She loved to linger on the dock with a cup of coffee until the sun dried her off. Whenever possible she would bask in the glow of the sun with a book in her hands. The secret to her long life could be attributed to her strong Norwegian genes, her sense of humor, or the fact that, even in winter, she had to crack the window for fresh air as she slept.

Trudy is survived by her five children: Mark (Jackie) Bangsberg, Peter (Mary) Bangsberg, Sara (Tom) Raasch, Christopher Bangsberg, Andy (Barb) Bangsberg; eight grandchildren: Emily Raasch, Cody Raasch, Gunnar Raasch, Borgne Raasch, Naida Bangsberg, Jacob Bangsberg, Luke Bangsberg, and Lindsey Bangsberg; four great-grandchildren: Xander Bangsberg, Xylus Bangsberg, Xena Bangsberg, and Mara Fuller; her sister, Elsa Lawrence; special family friend, Hunter Johnson; and her beloved nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband: Harry; her parents: Sigurd and Maria; siblings: Malcolm, Harold, Erling, and Genevieve; and her great-grandson, Xerxes Harry.

Trudy will be missed immeasurably by her family and friends, but her light shines on in all of us. She made the world a better place. She instilled in her children the importance of love for all mankind. She believed in the power of Love and the power of Kindness.

A private burial was held. A Service and Celebration of Life will be held during the summer of 2023. If you wish to make a memorial in Trudy's name, please consider Long Lake Lutheran Church (Music) or Lutheran World Relief.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Trudy Bangsberg, please visit our Tree Store or plant a tree.