

Eunice Kjaer – Diploma 1951 Bismarck Hospital School of Nursing

Age 93 – Eugene, OR

Eunice Freise Kjaer was born to Pauline and Charles Freise on June 12, 1931, the fourth of their four children. After surviving scarlet fever thanks to the care of her uncle, Dr Paul Freise, she attended Judson Grade School and lived on the farm until moving "to town" (New Salem, North Dakota) in 1947. She attended New Salem High School, graduating in 1948. She earned a scholarship to Bismarck Evangelical Hospital School of Nursing, where she graduated in 1951. After working there for a year, she joined classmates in Corning, California for 18 months before moving to Seattle to attend University of Washington School of Nursing where she obtained a BS in Nursing Education and Public Health.

While working at Children's Orthopedic Hospital she met pre-med student George Kjaer, whom she married September 11, 1956. Two years later, daughter Kirsten was born. They moved to Detroit for George's internship and residency, where daughter Lisa was born. George's military service required a move to Fort Bragg, NC for two years, followed by 2 years of residency at the University of Washington. This accomplished, the family made the happy move to Eugene, Oregon. Eunice returned to nursing, this time at Sacred Heart Hospital, retiring in 1986. Incapable of sitting still, Eunice turned her home into the House in the Woods Bed and Breakfast, which she ran for 21 years, with the help of her dear friend Barb Spears. She was also active in supporting the Eugene Glass School (co-founded by her husband) giving her the opportunity to meet world famous glass artists and travel, until George died in 2005. Remaining in the House in the Woods for 5 more years, with a sad heart she sold the house after 49 years and moved to Cascade Manor, where she met and married Charles Reinhardt, to whom she was happily married until his death in 2021.

Eunice did "the usual mom things" as a Girl Scout Leader and Sunday School teacher. She was a Board member of the Crest Drive Citizens' Association (Now South Hill Assoc), an avid gardener and Master Gardener, and was a member of United Lutheran Church until her death. Interfaith Earthkeepers and environmentalist issues became even more important, though she declared the possibility that she was born an environmentalist.

She is most proud of her daughters, Kirsten and Lisa, and her grandchildren, Nicholas, Katherine, and Kaarin, and for having been loved by two fine men (and God all her life). All these she counted as her life's greatest blessings. In her final year she was able to welcome into the world her great grandson Theodore and great granddaughter Isabel.

The funeral will be held November 22 at 2 p.m. at United Lutheran Church and a Memorial Service November 23 at 1 p.m. at Cascade Manor.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests donations go to United Lutheran Church Education Program, Northwest Children's Foundation (Seattle), FreeBibles.net, Lane Community College School of Nursing, or the NDSU School of Nursing at Sanford Health.