



Chrys Marie Lien

September 3, 1948 - May 18, 2024

Chrys Marie Katainen Lien

Chrys Marie (Katainen) Lien, 75, North Oaks and formerly of Cokato, died Saturday, May 18, 2024, at Regions Hospital in St. Paul, surrounded by close family.

A memorial service is scheduled for Monday, June 10, at 11:00 AM at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Dassel with Rev. Janine Olson officiating. Interment of the urn follows the service at Ness Lutheran Cemetery, rural Litchfield. Visitation is scheduled for Sunday, June 9, 3:00-5:00 PM, at Johnson Funeral Home in Dassel.

Chrys Marie Katainen was born September 3, 1948, at Wesley Hospital in Wadena, Minnesota, to Ralph Katainen and Marcella (Kiviaho) Katainen. The family moved to the east side of St. Paul, where Chrys was raised and graduated from Johnson Senior High School in 1966. She continued her schooling at the University of Minnesota, where she graduated in 1971 with a B.A. in Art Education.

Chrys was united in marriage to Steven James Lien on August 24, 1968, at Messiah Lutheran Church on Payne Avenue in St. Paul. Payne Avenue soon became a center of their early marriage, as the two opened Furniture

Minnesota, Inc. there in 1971. Having previously worked in the Coon Rapids school district and at Travelers Insurance in St. Paul, Chrys helped manage the furniture operation for several years before shifting her attention to full-time parenting. Chrys and Steve later relocated to follow Steve's employment, first to Plymouth in 1978 and then to rural Dassel in 1980.

Chrys welcomed the move to the country. She taught Sunday school and was involved with service units at Gethsemane Lutheran for many years. Once both children were in school, she was drawn back into education herself, serving as a part-time art instructor at the elementary schools in Dassel and Cokato. Eager to establish her credentials as a full-time teacher, she went on to earn her M.A. in secondary education at St. Cloud State University. She was hired by the Dassel-Cokato school district and spent the final 27 years of her career as a secondary special education instructor. She cultivated a reputation among her many students as a caring and patient teacher, a trusted listener, and a tireless supporter, especially for those most in need.

In her spare time, Chrys continued her artistic pursuits for the rest of her life. In the 1990s, she honed her skills in woodworking and even sold many of the wooden Christmas ornaments she'd carved. When her dexterity declined, she shifted her creative outlets to colored pencil drawing and acrylic painting, her handiwork adorning the walls of family members to this day.

Chrys loved playing games, especially Trivial Pursuit, with friends and family and particularly with the grandchildren she adored. Her love of competition was not purely participatory, either. Over the past decade, Chrys developed a near-fanatic passion for NBA basketball. During the winter and spring, she would reliably find NBA games to watch nearly every night on television. Her family credits her beloved Golden State Warriors for helping her through the pandemic, though her focus had since shifted to the upstart Minnesota Timberwolves.

Chrys was largely wheelchair-bound in recent years; however, her outgoing nature and indomitable spirit kept her vital. Her lack of mobility did not hold her back from enjoying memorable trips to Mexico and France with family members. Chrys and Steve's 2021 move to Waverly Gardens in North Oaks renewed her vigor, giving her a new set of friends to regale with stories and engage with in weekly card games. A proud East Sider to the end, she participated in organizing the past two reunions for the Johnson High School class of 1966 and loved reconnecting with classmates.

Chrys is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Steve; children Erik (Cristina Burdett) of St. Paul and Andrea (Daniel Becker) of Falcon Heights; two grandchildren, Anders & Maren Lien; brother Stephen Katainen of White Bear Lake; and sister Kirsten Evavold of Nevis, Minnesota. She was preceded in death by her parents and her parents in-law.

Cemetery Details

Ness Lutheran Cemetery

24040 580th Ave, Litchfield
Litchfield, MN 55355

Previous Events

Time to gather with family

JUN **9**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

Johnson Funeral Home
PO Box 1 611 N 2nd Street
Dassel, MN 55325
(320) 275-3381
jfhdassel@spectrum.net

Memorial Service

JUN **10**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
221 Atlantic Ave E
Dassel, MN 55325
office@glcdassel.com
<http://www.glcdassel.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Chrys Marie Lien.*



June 09, 2024 at 05:16 PM



“ *Martha & Christina Lundell planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chrys Marie Lien.*

Martha & Christina Lundell - June 09, 2024 at 05:16 PM



“ *Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Chrys Marie Lien.*



June 05, 2024 at 01:50 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Chrys Marie Lien.*



June 04, 2024 at 12:46 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Chrys Marie Lien.*



June 03, 2024 at 01:25 PM



“ *Judy B. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chrys Marie Lien.*

Judy B. - June 03, 2024 at 01:25 PM



“ *Steve and family, our deepest sympathies in the loss of your lovely Chrys.
Doug and Julie Fett*

Julie Fett - May 25, 2024 at 07:23 PM



Steve and family, our condolences from cousin Jeff Kiviaho and family.

Jeff Kiviaho - June 03, 2024 at 08:25 PM