



Carol L. Bates

February 9, 1941 - March 17, 2025

Carol L. Bates, 84, of Kingsford Heights, passed away peacefully on Monday, March 17, 2025.

Carol was born on February 9, 1941, in Iron Mountain, the daughter of the late Thomas Stanley Hicks and Lillian (Pollard) Hicks. A lifelong resident of the Iron Mountain/Kingsford area, she graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1959.

Following her graduation, Carol began her career at Wisconsin Electric Power Company. She made lifelong friends. These coworkers continued to meet for lunch and reminisce for years, sharing fond memories of their time together.

On July 6, 1963, Carol married Thomas I. Bates at the First United Methodist Church in Iron Mountain. Together, they built a life full of love, laughter, and a deep sense of family.

Carol was an active member of the First United Methodist Church playing the piano, serving/baking for the "Cornish Tea" bazar and free assistance with any bookkeeping tasks. When the family later joined Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Carol again became active, joining the ladies circle and later took a position working as Financial Secretary for 10 years, where again, she made lifelong friends.

Carol had a passion for making her home a warm and inviting place, always staying on trend with a fresh coat of paint or new wallpaper. She was a beautiful piano player and there was always music playing somewhere in the house. She was an exceptional cook and baker, always preparing her signature sweet treats with love, knowing everyone's favorite. No one could make a pasty, saffron buns, or heavy cake like Carol!

Her greatest joy, however, was tending to her gardens. Carol found peace and fulfillment in nurturing her flowers, spending hours outdoors, pruning, weeding, and cultivating beauty.

In most recent years, Carol looked forward to the girls visiting to play cards. (card club - Gay, Bev, Chris, Linda, alumni Karen, Judy) Getting together weekly or sometimes twice a week enjoying lunch and social time together.

Carol is survived by her four children, Paula (Doug) Forstrom of Felch, MI, Shari (Troy) Herout of Hugo, MN, Drew (Kathy) Bates of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, and David (Kirstin) Bates of Neenah, WI; ten grandchildren, Sarah (Josh) Schuiteman & Gunnar Forstrom, Lauren & Gretchen Herout, Brittany & Brett Bates, Grant, Morgan, Logan & Brinley Bates; and one great grandchild, Bristol Schuiteman.

Carol was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Bates; parents, Stanley and Lillian Hicks; in-laws, George Irving & Iris Bates; and siblings, Thomas (Winnie) Hicks, Merlin (Julie)/(Kathleen) Hicks, Betty (David) Forcey, Ethel (Warren) Lidbeck and Gordon (Lindes) Hicks.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude to family, friends and neighbors who visited in person or by phone, offered to run errands, snowblower/shoveled, or made a treat/meal for her. To the entire staff at

Freeman's Nursing home, even though it was a brief time we thank you for all you did!

Visitation will be on Saturday, April 5, 2025, from 9:30 am until 11:am at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Iron Mountain, with Rev. Dr. Nicholas Hopman officiating the funeral service at 11:00 am at the church. The burial will be in Iron Mountain Cemetery Park.

Condolences may be expressed to the family of Carol Bates online at www.englishfuneralhomes.com.

The family has entrusted the Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home with the funeral arrangements.

Cemetery Details

Iron Mountain Cemetery Park

Cedar Ave
Iron Mountain, MI 49801
(906) 774-1212

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 5. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1210 S Kimberly Ave
Iron Mountain, MI 49801-4619
(906) 774-2733

Funeral Service

APR 5. 11:00 AM (CT)

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
1210 S Kimberly Ave
Iron Mountain, MI 49801-4619
(906) 774-2733

Tribute Wall



“ *Forever Our Angel Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carol L. Bates.*



April 04, 2025 at 11:38 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Carol L. Bates.

April 04, 2025 at 11:38 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Carol L. Bates.*



March 31, 2025 at 09:06 PM



“ *My favorite aunt. I cherish the times spent with her and the long telephone conversations sometimes 2-3 hours. I will miss her so much.*

Sympathies to Drew, David, Paula and Shari

Love.

Dale

Dale Marquis - March 21, 2025 at 03:04 PM

SH

*Thank you Dale.
She loved you and your visits and calls*

Shari Herout - March 27, 2025 at 08:07 PM

JH

“ *I spent many hours at that kitchen table with Carol and Shari! Carol would tease me about my Minnesota accent and then offer, “You’d like your coffee hottened, eh?”*

We would laugh until the tears ran down her cheeks! She was an awesome lady full of humor and wit. Thanks for sharing her with me!

Love and hugs to all!

Julia Hendricksen - March 21, 2025 at 02:39 PM

SH

*Awww...yes, great memories!
She loved you! Thank you for this great memory!*

Shari Herout - March 27, 2025 at 08:10 PM