



Cynthia Alexander Carlson

April 23, 1924 - October 25, 2020

Cynthia Alexander Carlson, 96, a longtime resident of Iron Mountain, MI and Bonita Springs, Florida passed away peacefully on October 25, 2020, comforted in her last days by her three daughters. Cynthia was born on April 23, 1924 in Detroit to the late Ina and Dr. William Alexander, who came to the area in 1925 as one of the first surgeons at the new Ford plant.

She graduated from Iron Mountain High School in 1942, and the University of Wisconsin in 1946. While working in Chicago as a medical illustrator, she met Dr. Ralph E. Carlson of Kingsford, MI, whom she married in 1947. After Ralph's service in the army and surgical residency in Detroit, the young couple moved back to the area to raise their family, lured back to the lifestyle of the north woods.

During her long life, Cynthia was an active participant in the community. She was a founding member of the Iron Mountain Kingsford Art Association, and charter member of the Dickinson County Memorial Hospital League. As president of the Washington Elementary School PTA, she proudly helped influence voting to replace the antiquated facility with a new school (Eastside Elementary). Other memberships include the Iron mountain Kingsford Women's Club, the Friday Study Club, the Dickinson County Pilot's Association, the Chippewa Club, and 100+ Women.

One of Cynthia's early passions was flying airplanes. In 1944, at the age of 20, she was the first student to receive her pilot's license from the Fontana School of Aviation. She became a member of the famous "Ninety Nines," a women's pilot association founded by Amelia Earhart in 1939. Among the aircraft she flew were the Taylorcraft, Ercoupe, Ryan PT 22 army trainer and Beechcraft Musketeer. She was working on her instrument rating in a Beechcraft Bonanza when she gave up flying due to her growing concerns about leaving her daughters "motherless," as she joked.

Cynthia was a voracious reader of fiction and nonfiction, enjoying any topic from history to the latest advances in medicine. She educated herself about new technologies and international trends, and she loved sending articles of special interest to her children and grandchildren up until her death. She loved spending time with her immediate and extended family at their home at Spread Eagle where they gathered every summer. Her intelligence and unfiltered sharp wit will be missed by all who knew her, including her many dear friends in Florida, and the staff and additional friends she made while at Evergreen Senior Living.

Survivors include her daughters Deborah (Norm) Miede of Nashville, TN, Meredith Carlson of Libertyville, IL, and Marsha Hodges of Denver CO. Grandchildren include Mara Herron, Nick Herron, Lisa Herron, Teddy Hodges, Nick Miede, Matt Miede, and Danny Miede.

In addition to her husband of 69 years, Cynthia was predeceased this year by her grandson, Gavin Hodges, 28, and brother Gavin Alexander.

A celebration of life service will be scheduled at a later date when it can be held safely.

In lieu of flowers, the family would be honored if a donation was made in her

name to

the Caring House, 1305 S. Prospect, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

or

DACF, 333 S. Stephenson Ave., Suite 204, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

Condolences to the family of Cynthia Alexander Carlson may be expressed online at www.ernashfuneralhomes.com

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

Tribute Wall

AB

“ Cynthia was an absolute treasure...Dave and I loved her and Ralph....her dried flower arrangements were some of the most beautiful I've ever seen...she was indeed an artist among so many other talents....I am truly sorry for your loss

Annie Barnes - November 03, 2020 at 11:32 AM

BC

“ Dear Deb & Mimi & Marsha, John & I are with you during this time of transition. I think of a wonderful phrase about death & dying being about rejoining consciousness. I can easily imagine your dear mother & my dear Aunt Cynthia as mixing it up with every entity available.
Love, Ben & John

Ben Carlson - November 02, 2020 at 05:28 PM

BK

“ "Thinking of you all and the wonderful times your Mom shared on earth with all her close friends, including Helen Ruth. I'm quite sure they will all be reuniting for celestial bridge club and doing what they liked best - talking about their kids! Cynthia and Ralph were treasured in the Kauper family. God Bless."

Bill Kauper & Patty Kauper

Bill Kauper - October 31, 2020 at 08:03 PM

BB

“ So sorry for your loss. A mother's love can never be replaced. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Sea Isles Resident
Bette Brown

Bette Brown - October 29, 2020 at 10:08 PM

PM

“ We were all blessed to have known such a special person. The warmth and joy she and Ralph brought to Sea Isles will long be remembered. God bless Cynthia.

Pat & Pat Molloy - October 29, 2020 at 05:27 PM

VM

“ My condolences to your family at the passing of your mom. I thoroughly enjoyed our visits and conversations through the years at Evergreen Apts. She was a wonderful lady and great friend. I will miss her immensely.

Vivian Melin - October 28, 2020 at 09:43 PM

KL

“ A woman with a sharp wit and strong mind. She was a joy to know and hear.

Ken Lichtenberger - October 28, 2020 at 09:18 PM

SK

“ If you met her, you never forget her. May her memory be a blessing.

Steven Kushner - October 28, 2020 at 03:18 PM

KF

“ We are so sorry to hear about the passing of your mom and grandmother. I have loved hearing stories about her over the years. She was a remarkable woman.

with love, Karen Fisher and family

Karen Fisher - October 28, 2020 at 08:59 AM

SM

“ A remarkable life...that certainly enriched ours. Pete and Shelby Merckx and family.

Shelby Merckx - October 27, 2020 at 09:41 AM

JC

“ Joy Carlson lit a candle in memory of Cynthia Alexander Carlson



Joy Carlson - October 26, 2020 at 01:48 PM