

Kathleen Avalon (Grosz) Ferson, age 80, passed away on Wednesday, November 21, 2018, surrounded by family at her home, after a courageous battle with metastatic lung cancer.

“Kitty” was born January 30, 1938, in St. Paul, MN, the daughter of William P. and Iona S. (Van Dyke) Grosz. She, her parents and three siblings, Ben, Gwen, and Helen, moved to Alexandria in 1945. She attended grade school at District 99, now the LaGrand Town Hall. She was graduated with honors from Central High School, Alexandria, in 1955.

Kitty moved to Oklahoma and began her secretarial career with Cities Service Oil Co., Bartlesville, OK, in 1955. Upon returning to Minnesota, she accepted positions with the Dept. of the Interior and XIV US Army Corps, Minneapolis. In 1963, she moved to Colorado Springs, CO, to begin employment with Headquarters NORAD and the 9th Aerospace Defense Command, Ent Air Force Base.

Kitty returned to Minneapolis in 1965, where she met her future husband Ronald K. Ferson, a career military man. They were married in Alexandria, MN on November 26, 1966. They moved to Fort Sheridan, Illinois, following Ron's tour of duty in Vietnam in 1967. They then left for a three year stint in Heidelberg, Germany. *Kitty* finished her federal career there at Headquarters, Fifth U.S. Army, Europe.

Upon Ron's retirement in 1974 from the U.S. Army, they moved to Alexandria, MN. It was here they spent almost 40 years together in their home in the woods on Cork Lake. *Kitty* thought of it as her “Walden.” This land was special as it had been homesteaded by *Kitty's* grandfather, Lewis C. Van Dyke, in the 1870s. Here *Kitty* enjoyed fishing in her row boat, tending her flowers and vegetables, writing poetry, having a cold one on the deck, nesting in the winter, and appreciating all the splendors of nature that surrounded her every day. *Kitty* cherished her kin and adored her many cats. She was a longstanding member of the VFW Auxiliary and a member of the Lakes Area Humane Society.

Kitty and Ron's life journey together ended when Ron succumbed to a brain hemorrhage on December 10, 2013. The loss of the closeness they had shared for so many years was difficult for *Kitty*. *Kitty* was a bit of a dreamer: “Hold fast your dreams. They're better far, than the truths revealed are.” She was a loving and sometimes complex woman. *Kitty* had said if people were so inclined, when she left this earth, she would not mind if a few tears were shed for her, but then she would like her loved ones to smile and lift a glass “for the good times.” May she be doing the same with her beloved Ron, in that great beyond.

When I'm Gone

When I come to the end of my journey

And I travel my last weary mile

Just forget if you can, that I ever frowned

And remember only the smile.

Forget unkind words I have spoken;

Remember some good I have done.

Forget that I ever had heartache

And remember I've had loads of fun.

Forget that I've stumbled and blundered

And sometimes fell by the way..

Remember I have fought some hard battles

And won, ere the close of the day.

Then forget to grieve for my going.

I would not have you sad for a day.

But in the summer gather some flowers

And remember the place where I lay.

And come in the shade of the evening

When the sun paints the sky in the west.

Stand for a few moments beside me

And remember only my best.

--Mrs. Lyman Hancock

In Loving Memory of

Kathleen "Kitty" Ferson

January 30, 1938



November 21, 2018

Funeral Service

Anderson Funeral
Home

Alexandria, MN

Monday, November 26, 2018

11:00 AM



Officiant

Pastor Jay Jenson

Pallbearers

Taylor Lake

Larissa Lake

Jeff Tvrdik

Scott Smedstad

Cody Rupert

Garrett Lake

Interment

Evergreen Cemetery
Alexandria, Minnesota

