



Nora Lee Thomason

June 27, 1945 - February 6, 2022

Nora Lee Thomason, 76, a loving wife, mother, sister, aunt and friend, died Sunday, Feb. 6, 2022. Her devoted husband of 53 years was by her side when she passed away at Loyola University Medical Center, the same hospital where she received a second chance at life 8 years ago through the gift of a double lung transplant.

Nora is survived by her husband, Richard; son, Patrick and daughter, Kristen; sister, Betty and her husband, Swede; sister, Patricia and her husband, Ray; sister, Judy; sister-in-law, Cindy; nieces and nephews, Bryan, Kathy, Beth Ann, Lynn, and Jeff, along with their spouses, children and grandchildren; and Carol & the Bunko gang in Battle Creek, MI, whom she cherished.

Nora was born in 1945 in Kankakee, Ill., where she was a graduate of Bishop McNamara Catholic High School. She briefly attended nursing school until medical issues derailed her career ambitions. Her desire to care for others was eventually channeled into raising her children and supporting her husband whom she met while throwing darts and drinking Brandy at Harry's Peanut Pub.

While raising her family she actively participated in their lives. She coached her kids' sports teams; served as a Girl Scout troop leader; was Room Mother; held leadership roles with the PTA and Junior League; was always

present on the sidelines (and cheered the loudest) at hundreds of floor hockey, softball, and baseball games; hosted countless guests in her home (including Japanese Olympians who didn't speak English but felt welcomed and at ease simply because of Nora's presence and warmth); and made every holiday special with beautiful décor, delicious meals, and moments that turned into cherished memories.

Nora's work ethic was unmatched. She was a skilled Dental Assistant, earned Employee of the Month several times while working at Marshall Field's, and owned R&N Antiques with her husband. She had a nose for a bargain, incredible DIY skills, and transformed junk into heirloom treasures. The proceeds from R&N Antiques helped send both of her children to college.

Nora believed life is better at the lake. She spent over 60 summers on the shores of Lake Minocqua in Northern Wisconsin. Nora was an outdoor enthusiast, sunshine worshiper, nature lover, and adventurer. She was a slalom skier, fish slayer, and a natural rowboat paddler.

Her most recent passion that made her exceptionally proud was her son's business venture: Sallet's Northwood's Outfitters located in Minocqua. The store is a living tribute to her and all those who love the Northwoods. Her family jokes that she is CEO, Creative Director, and Head Visual Merchandiser. Her window displays rivaled Macy's. Her customer service beat Neiman's. For her, working at Sallet's was a labor of love that brought her endless joy.

A celebration of life will happen this summer Up North at the lake. Her spirit in heaven is happy knowing her body will rest peacefully at the place she considered heaven on earth.

Memorial donations are welcome in Nora's honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. As someone who fought a genetic disease her entire life

she had great empathy for the young patients at St. Jude's and admired their courage, strength, and unwavering hope.

Tribute Wall

CV

“ *Pete and I are so sad to hear of Nora’s passing. We have such fond memories of spending weekends in Canada with Dick, Nora, and Kristen during the years Julie and Kristen played Floor Hockey. Nora was a wonderful, fun, and caring friend.* ”

connie and Pete Vunovich - March 13, 2022 at 03:25 PM

BM

“ *Nora displayed enormous bravery dealing with her illness. I had not seen her for many years but was privileged to reconnect with her when she moved back to Illinois. May your memories comfort you.* ”

Burma Mathews - February 18, 2022 at 10:07 AM



“ *Thinking of you Dick, Patrick and Kristen- When I think of Aunt Nora- I remember what a sweet, kind and caring lady she was. Such a blessing to have known her. Keep those memories close to your hearts.* ”

*Hugs and Prayers
Kellee Hayes*

Kellee Middleton Hayes - February 10, 2022 at 12:31 PM

CM

“ *Very sad to hear of Nora's passing. She was a great friend in high school. Very caring person. May she rest in peace. Prayers for her husband & family for their loss.* ”

Cathie (Sederstrand) Miedema

cathie miedema - February 09, 2022 at 11:34 PM



Shelli
Thomas

“ *Kristin and Patrick and all the Yonke's:
I'm so sorry. I really enjoyed spending time with your mom (Aunt
Nora) this summer. She was a special lady!
You and the whole family are in my prayers.*

Shelli Thomas - February 09, 2022 at 11:51 AM