



Catherine "Kay" Graf

July 2, 1922 - November 5, 2017

Catherine "Kay" Marie Schroeder Graf of Upper Arlington, Ohio passed away peacefully on November 5, 2017 with her family at her side. Raised in New Bremen, Ohio, she graduated from The Ohio State University in 1944 with a degree in Music Education. While at OSU she was crowned Homecoming Queen in 1941, was a member of Delta Omicron and Pi Lambda Theta, and became a member and lifelong volunteer with Kappa Kappa Gamma Fraternity. She authored the first history of the sorority, became the organizer of the KKG Heritage Museum located in Columbus, served as its first curator, and received its Adelphe Society honor. A scholarship in her name is given annually to an intern at the Heritage Museum. Kay and her husband, Jack met at OSU and were married in 1945. She is survived by their three children, Jack R. Jr. (Kay) Graf of Columbus, OH; Holly (Steve) Fries of Boulder, CO; and Laurie (Dave) Chrisman of Longmont, Colorado; along with 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. Kay was music supervisor at New Bremen Schools and thereafter followed her life's calling through volunteerism within central Ohio. She was also a lyricist, a published poet, and author of numerous works including the first history of Scioto Country Club. Some of her other Board involvements included Childhood League, Canterbury Unit, Group Y, Columbus Symphony, UA Wednesday Club, Mortar Board, the Ohioana Book Award, Vaud-Villities, and The First Community Church. She co-founded the Lower Vision Society of Lower Arlington and would not miss a Trivia Night or Rusty Singers practice while residing at the Chelsea in First Community Village. Her family wants to thank both parents for teaching us how to be strong and independent people; to embrace teamwork: to love unconditionally and celebrate our differences; to be physically active and enjoy competition; to appreciate the arts and to have music in our lives; to laugh and keep a sense of humor; to be involved in the community; to be lifelong learners; to care for and treasure friends; and to keep a foundation of faith upon which to build a family with love. The Service of Memory (which Kay authored) will be held Saturday, January 6, 2018 at 2 pm at The First Community Church, 1320 Cambridge Blvd, Marble Cliff, Ohio 43212, with a reception immediately afterwards. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made the First Community Foundation at the same address.

Events

JAN	Memorial Service	02:00PM
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	First Community Church	
	1320 Cambridge Boulevard, Columbus, OH, US, 43212	

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Schoedinger Funeral Service - January 03, 2018 at 07:02 PM



“ David S. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Catherine Graf.

David S. - January 03, 2018 at 02:16 PM



“ My Aunt Catherine was simply The Greatest Aunt in the World. She showed me that it is the job of aunts to open Other Worlds to their nephews. That is what she did for me -- and she inspired me to do the same as an uncle for my nephews.

To speak with her was to touch Love of Life itself. She was gently but doggedly persistent in her enthusiasms, her poems, her jokes, her music, her groups, her loves, and her irritations. I thank God that her spirit was a part of my life.

Bless you, Catherine, and thank you.

David Schroeder - January 03, 2018 at 01:43 PM



“ Jack
I don't recall having met your mother so I did not have the opportunity to know her as I knew your Dad and Grandfather but it seems to be my loss in not meeting such an interesting and accomplished lady. My sympathies to you and your family. I know mothers are never easy to lose but then they are never far away either.
Best wishes, Bill Dawson

Bill Dawson - January 03, 2018 at 10:35 AM



“ Bob & I are parents of Kylie Towers Smith. We knew Kay through Kylie & the KKG museum & headquarters in Columbus.
Kay was a wonderful mentor and friend to Kylie and we have been so grateful for that as Kylie's parents.

Kylie came to Columbus fresh from college accepting the position of archivist/curator for Kappa and Kay took her under her wing. Kay & Jack included her in so many family and social events and they became fast friends. Kylie has loved Kay dearly & learned so much from her.

Bob & I are so thankful for Kay and all she has been to Kylie & to so many others, including us. She will be sorely missed by so many. We have been blessed to know her.

Please accept our deepest sympathy.

Bob & Carolyn Towers - January 03, 2018 at 09:34 AM



“ Please accept my condolences on the passing of Kay. I worked with Kay at KKG and she was a sweet lady. Having just lost my Mom on 11/22, I feel your pain but also know how fortunate my family has been to have had our Mom in our lives for so long. I know that Kay will be missed by many but her love for all of you will live on forever.

Sincerely,

Larry Focht

Larry Focht - January 01, 2018 at 09:10 AM