

## **Kathleen Tande – BS 1977 Pharmacy**

Kathleen "Kathy" Skoe Tande, 70, of Park Rapids, MN, passed away Saturday, November 30, 2024, following a sudden cerebral hemorrhage.

Kathy was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, sibling, cousin, community leader, animal lover and friend who shared her enthusiasm for life with everyone she met. She was always up for an adventure and lived to the beat of her own drum.

Born on Feb. 9, 1954, to Russel and Margaret Skoe, Kathy grew up in Park Rapids, graduating from Park Rapids High School in 1972. She earned her pharmacy degree from North Dakota State University after graduating from the University of Minnesota Duluth.

Kathy's professional career was deeply rooted in her hometown. After her father, Russ, died, she took the reins of Park Drug, a cornerstone of the Park Rapids community. Kathy juggled the challenges of managing a business and raising twins Spike and Sam and baby Brian. Her career extended far beyond dispensing medications — she was a trusted source of care and compassion and an inspiring boss to the many high school students she worked with over the years.

Kathy was a tireless champion and ambassador for her community. Her passion for service was reflected in her leadership roles, including chairing the Northwest Minnesota Foundation, Minnesota Retail Foundation, the Headwaters 100 bike event, serving on the Park Rapids City Council and spearheading initiatives such as the Progress Park Rapids group and the Century School planning and building bond referendum. She led the fundraising to secure a new building for the Park Rapids Area Library, providing future generations with access to books. A proud Rotarian and participant in the Blandin Community Leadership Program, Kathy's efforts earned her the H.N. Bishop Award in 1993, recognizing her extraordinary contributions to the community she loved.

Family was at the heart of Kathy's life. She cherished her husband, Jim Tande, and was a caring mom to Spike (Kitty) Craddock, Sam (RG) Geiling, and Brian (Alix) Lincoln. She delighted in her role as grandmother to Red, Cora, Peter, Jonathan, Wesley, Adelaide and Holden, stepmom to Sarah (Dave) Glad, Susan Tande and Ben (Kate) Tande, and step-grandmother to Jack, Ben, Maggie, Janie, Cal, Joe, Luke and Isaac.

She is survived by her siblings, Sue (Dave) Harsha, Nancy (Kurt) Heinritz, Doug (Teresa) Skoe and Steve (Anne) Skoe, as well as beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Kathy found joy in life's simple pleasures: reading, gardening, time with her dogs, swimming, stopping by quirky museums, savoring oysters with a glass of wine, a rousing game of cards, winning at Liar's Dice, campfires and floating down the river. Her warmth, wit and positivity left an indelible mark on those around her. She will be deeply missed.

Kathy's legacy is one of kindness, generosity and unwavering love for her family and community. She would be thrilled to know that she was able to help three others through her organ donations. We imagine how surprised a recipient would be if they suddenly started calling family members to sing a boisterous version of Happy Birthday, or saying, "Nice stick, Booker" to their dog.

A celebration of Kathy's life will be held Jan. 18 at The Armory in Park Rapids. Doors will open at 4 p.m. with a ceremony starting at 4:30. Dinner and dancing will follow.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to Friends of the Park Rapids Area Library ([friendspral.com](http://friendspral.com)), Headwaters Animal Shelter ([headwatersanimalshelter.org/donate](http://headwatersanimalshelter.org/donate)), or a local charity of your choice in honor of Kathy's lifelong commitment to the community.