



Carla Fox Cousley

July 17, 1950 - July 10, 2021

Carla Fox Cousley, age 70, was a caring wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend. She passed away peacefully on July 10, 2021 surrounded by her loving family. Carla was born in Hannibal, Missouri on July 17, 1950. She was born to George and Marjorie Fox. She had wonderful memories of growing up in Hannibal with her favorite grandfather “Woody” including “cutting cookies” in Woody’s car on the frozen Mississippi River and coating her legs with mud so the mosquitoes would not bite her while they fished together in the summer months. Her father, George, was a grocery store manager, so her family moved frequently. As a child, she lived in Steeleville, St. James, Farmington, Columbia (Missouri), and Springfield (Illinois). Her mother, Marjorie, was an insurance company executive. Carla graduated from Hickman High School in Columbia, Missouri. She went on to attend the University of Denver on an academic scholarship. She attended the Sorbonne University in Paris, France during her Junior year. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1972 with majors in Psychology and Education. She was also a member of Phi Beta Kappa academic honor society. While in Denver, she learned to ski and enjoyed that sport for the rest of her life. At the time, she thought weekends started on Thursday afternoon and ended on Tuesday morning. She went on to teach French in Pawnee, Illinois for five years. She met her husband, David, in Springfield, Illinois. They were married in 1977 by Reverend Larry Jackman in the First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, a church in which Abraham Lincoln had been a member. Later

that year, Carla and David relocated to Alton, Illinois. They loved the Mississippi River, historic homes, and Midwestern values. Carla spent the next seven years teaching French in the Ladue and Lindbergh school districts. Her life's joy was raising her children, daughters Sarah and Caroline. During their younger years, she chose to stay home and raise them. She sewed dresses for them and made numerous arts and crafts projects. She was a loving, devoted wife and mother. As her children grew older, she continued her education pursuits, and she received a Master of Arts in Psychology from St. Louis University in 1982. She also received a Master of Science in Speech from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville in 1999. Carla eventually went back to work and spent 18 years in the St. Louis Special Education School District in Riverview Gardens as a speech pathologist. She loved her students and fellow staff members and shared her sense of humor with them. She reluctantly retired in 2020. Carla was a dedicated member at the First Presbyterian Church in Alton. She was ordained as a Deacon and served on the Board of Deacons. She was also ordained as a Ruling Elder and served on the Session. The church was an important part of her life. Carla lived life to its fullest. She loved to make others laugh with her jokes, karaoke, and dance moves. She attained excellence as a long-distance runner and in the 90s, completed the 10-mile River Road Run in 90 minutes. She took great pleasure in gardening and had beautiful flowers in her garden from May to October. Her favorite flowers were sunflowers and daisies. She was a creative photographer whose topic was typically her children and captured lots of memories on beaches, hikes, and everyday life. Carla was a fish out of water and enjoyed swimming anywhere she could – from the Gulf of Mexico to her pool next to her garden. She loved watching her granddaughter, Layla, learn to swim in her pool. Carla and David were married for 44 years. Together, they enjoyed a wonderful life and shared a love of their children, books, films, art, music, and travel. They hosted many annual Fourth of July parties and took much delight in neighborhood impromptu get-togethers. They were fortunate to live nearby several family members and dear friends. Carla is survived by

her husband David, daughter Sarah and granddaughter Layla, all of Alton, and daughter Caroline, of Las Vegas, Nevada. She is also survived by her brother and his wife, George and Lois Fox, of Waverly, Illinois as well as her nephew Jonathan, his wife Jamie, and their son Victor of Champaign, Illinois. Carla has two surviving uncles, Dr. James Martin of Minneapolis, Minnesota and Dr. Harold Martin of Denver, Colorado, and their families. She has two surviving brothers-in-law, Steve Cousley and Robert Thornberry of Alton, Illinois along with their children, grandchildren, and respective families. She was preceded in death by sisters-in-law, Mary Mader, Mary Lou Cousley, and Carole Thornberry. Services will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Alton on Friday, July 16, 2021, with the visitation starting at 9:30AM and service following at 11:00AM. Gent Funeral Home is overseeing arrangements. In lieu of flowers, please send any memorial contributions to the First Presbyterian Church of Alton. Carla will be extraordinarily missed and will live on in spirit as many stories will continue to be shared amongst loved ones. She lived a fulfilling life and would thank all who made it so. Online guestbook and information may be found at www.gentfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Alton City Cemetery

Alton, IL

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 16. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4th & Alby Streets
Alton, IL 62002

Memorial Service

JUL 16. 11:00 AM (CT)

First Presbyterian Church
4th & Alby Streets
Alton, IL 62002

Tribute Wall



“ So very sad to hear that Carla had passed. It was a shock in reality. We were very good friends in Columbia. Knew her Mom & Dad. Last time I saw her was in Denver. She was very special. She accomplished a lot.

John Corbin
Reno, NV

John Corbin - May 12, 2024 at 09:05 PM



“ Carla Fox Cousley

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ Carla Fox Cousley

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ I am so sadden to hear about Carla's passing. She was a wonderful lady and a gorgeous soul and I am so lucky to have gotten to know her. My fond memories of Summers Port certainly included time spent with her. I extend my sincere condolences to her family and friends. She will be greatly missed but heaven gained a beautiful angel whose spirit will live on in those who knew her. Rest in peace Carla.

Mary Ann Morris - July 21, 2021 at 12:02 PM

JM

“ So very sorry and saddened. I remember the wonderful mother Carla was from my years at Summers-Port. I know how she will be missed and am keeping you all in my prayers.

Jenny Margarida - July 17, 2021 at 06:35 PM

GB

“ David,
We were so sorry to hear about Carla. We missed you guys over the years and wish we had gotten together with you guys. Nancy and I are thinking of you and hope we see you sometime in the not so distant future. Gary and Nancy Barton

Gary Barton - July 16, 2021 at 03:22 PM

FL

“ Fred & I were so very saddened to hear about Carla. Her personality and compassion for others was such a very attractive and admirable quality that we will miss, along with her close friendship.
To Dave and family, we will keep her AND you in our prayers as she will not easily be forgotten.
LOVE to you all!!!

Fred Dirck Greg Leavey - July 16, 2021 at 12:44 AM

SD

“ Carla was such a wonderful & generous person. When I led the Youth Fellowship at First Presbyterian, she used to invite all of the students over to her house to swim several times during the summer. She even provided lemonade & pizza for the swim parties! She had a way of making the simplest gestures so special. ❤️

Susie Delano - July 15, 2021 at 09:24 PM

LM

“ Our thoughts, love and prayers go out to Dave, Sarah Layla, and Caroline and all of Carla's family. For years, beginning at Montessori, when our children were very young and just beginning school, we shared laughter, fun adventures, hayrides, Halloween parties, July 4th fireworks gatherings and yes...even some tears though those years. We are so sorry for your loss and the loss to our community and all those who knew and loved Carla. She could always make you smile and she made the BEST chocolate chip cookies that the kids and parents loved! Carla will be missed. Love and sympathy from George, Laurie Milnor and family.

Laurie Milnor - July 15, 2021 at 06:52 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carla Fox Cousley.



July 15, 2021 at 01:21 PM

SD

“ David and family, we are so sad to hear of your loss. We know all too well what you are going through and will go through. Hang in there.

Scott Downing - July 15, 2021 at 09:25 AM

SW

“ Dave and family...so saddened by your loss. Will keep you in my thoughts.

Steve Wendle - July 14, 2021 at 01:30 PM



“ *Garden Wreath was purchased for the family of Carla Fox Cousley.*



July 14, 2021 at 10:35 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Carla Fox Cousley.*



July 14, 2021 at 10:33 AM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Carla Fox Cousley.*



July 13, 2021 at 07:53 PM



“ *Larry and I will keep Carla's family in our prayers, so sorry for your loss. Didn't know her but, sounds like a Wonderful kind person, caring and very well educated person. Prayers are with you.*

Larry and Judy Thompson - July 13, 2021 at 11:37 AM

BN

“ *Becky (Edgar) Nelson lit a candle in memory of Carla Fox Cousley*



Becky (Edgar) Nelson - July 13, 2021 at 10:13 AM

LJ

“ *My sympathy to you all. I am touched to see that my father was mentioned in the story of Carla's life.*

Leah Jackman-Wheitner - July 12, 2021 at 11:40 PM

JL

“ *I remember meeting Carla for the first time. She was so funny and smart as a whip. So saddened. She was so interesting, and witty. Saddened.*

Julie Law - July 12, 2021 at 09:02 PM

ME

“ *Carla was a dear friend to our mom Betty Schwarte. When she and her family lived in the Christian Hill neighborhood she would pop in often to visit mom and their laughter could be heard down the block! She always demonstrated her love for her family and friends, was sooo proud of her girls and smitten with her granddaughter... and her 4th of July parties were epic. Truly larger than life, Carla will be dearly missed.*

Mary Ehley - July 12, 2021 at 08:41 PM