



Linda Lou Edwards

April 18, 1941 - January 7, 2024

Linda Lou Edwards, born April 18, 1941, believed in leaving the world a better place. She died January 7 after some major successes in support of that goal.

She leaves behind three brilliant, kind, and funny children, one of whom remains happily single; two of whom married up. They are Brian Edwards and his wife, Megan, Amy Edwards and her husband, Col. (ret.) Kurt Sonderman, and Russell Edwards.

She also leaves four grandchildren, of whom she was very proud. They are Berg Edwards Sonderman, Kai Crowell Sonderman, Lucy Marie Edwards, and Henry Dean Edwards. Each of them has already changed the world for the better. They have big plans to do more.

Linda was preceded in death by her infant daughter, Karen Elise, and her husband of 55 years, Dean Edwards.

Linda designed beautiful gardens everywhere she lived, planting to serve pollinators and people alike with her gorgeous flowers and award-worthy tomatoes.

She was an avid birder, encouraging her children, grandchildren, and countless others to learn about and care for the natural world. She taught

them about the things she loved most, from Monarch butterflies to Sandhill cranes.

She and Dean built and maintained a bluebird trail in their Riverside Lakes neighborhood along the Elkhorn River, and Linda built another for the Village of Waterloo after Dean's death, with the help of her son, Brian, and grandson, Henry.

She loved to cook, to dance, and to play Scrabble. She thought diarrhea was an excellent Scrabble word, but a terrible manner of speaking. With that in mind, she wanted to remind everyone to vote against Donald Trump.

Her body will be cremated, and there will be no funeral. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Audubon Society.

One of Linda's greatest pleasures in life was watching the wildlife while canoeing the Elkhorn River. Some warm, sunny day next summer, her children will take her on one final trip down the Elkhorn, searching for foxes and green herons along the way.

Tribute Wall

MW

“ I am so sorry I hear that Linda has passed away. I grew up thinking of the Schulers as distant cousins in a way, as my cousin Bob Stone (Stony) was also their cousin. I remember how pretty & vivacious all the “girls” were. Linda was certainly an accomplished woman who has left a wonderful legacy behind for her family to cherish.

Mary Wujcik - January 11, 2024 at 10:30 AM

DB

“ While I did not know Mrs. Edwards personally, her daughter, Amy, is a dear friend. If I had the chance to meet Linda, I would have given her the greatest hug and thanked her profusely for raising such an amazing woman, friend, and mother. Linda’s love of cooking, nature and birds was not lost with her, in fact it lives strong in her children, grandchildren, and inevitably, those things are shared with those of us who know them. Condolences to the family left behind. Be free, Linda Lou Edwards. The next time I see a Sandhill crane, I will think of you and smile to the heavens.

Dianne Bertini - January 10, 2024 at 09:13 PM

PC

“ I admired my sister, Linda for her intelligence and passion. Whatever she set out to do, she did so with a passion. She was an excellent cook and I enjoyed every meal she made, especially if that meal included her spring rolls. We shared a love of nature and she impressed us with her dedication to setting up and monitoring two bluebird trails plus becoming a Master Gardener. She was a fine seamstress. I liked to say that I didn't get the sewing gene, but the truth was that I didn't have the patience to deal with the tangled thread in my sewing machine. I treasure the gifts she made for me, as well as memories of good times together. There is a hole in my heart for my lost sister.

Patricia Collins - January 10, 2024 at 03:46 PM

SK

She was a wonderful and will be missed greatly by all ❤️

Shari Kiehl - January 10, 2024 at 09:08 PM

AH

Linda was a joy to know. I thank her and her family for the blue bird project in Waterloo.

alicia harlow - January 11, 2024 at 09:08 AM



Strong, smart, informed, opinionated – my sister Linda was all of these. She was seven years my senior but she made a point of including me in many of her adventures as I was growing up. As adults, we had many common interests, and traded recipes, plants, patterns and advice. Linda was adventuresome, kind, generous, thoughtful and loving. I miss her already but am comforted by memories of our many shared experiences and thousands of companionable hours.

Mary Snyder

Mary Snyder - January 11, 2024 at 11:19 AM

BB

Linda was a fun interesting kind classmate!

Barb Belha - January 11, 2024 at 05:31 PM

AW

*So sorry to hear this. Condolences to the family.
Wonderful obituary...a real tribute.*

annette widener - January 11, 2024 at 05:56 PM

EC

Sending hugs to Linda's siblings, children, and grandchildren!

Erica Cushing - January 11, 2024 at 10:22 PM

CS

Many of us in Waterloo are so sad to hear of Linda's passing. Thank you for this wonderfully clever obituary; I always thought Linda was a great lady, and this narrative confirms that. My family lives a couple streets down from Linda, we were glad to meet her when she moved "into town". I don't recall if we met through the neighborhood, or through the Waterloo Parks Board where she helped us install the blue bird trail. I will remember her fondly when I see the bird boxes around our Village. Praying for peace as you mourn the loss of your sister, mother, grandmother. She will be missed!!

Corie Sass - January 13, 2024 at 03:46 PM

CB

To Linda's Family: Thank you for sharing such an endearing obituary. What a lovely tribute to a woman I have never met. In reading about this spicey woman- I smiled, laughed and cried. Wow. I hope to meet her someday...when we all gather at the river, watching the monarchs and looking for Gods beautiful creatures. Thank you for sharing her...with all of us. Even those in small town Port Byron, Illinois. God's Peace to you all- Praying you find comfort in knowing that she is STILL celebrating life.

Amen.

Chris Bradshaw

Chris Bradshaw - January 19, 2024 at 10:56 AM

NA

Our great memories are from the Columbus times visiting, snacking ,watching TV games, etc. Linda's passing was a shock to us as we had visited a year ago with much laughter and memories. Have some great recipes from her. How special she will be where she loved and perhaps with Dean. The Wobigs

Nancy - January 20, 2024 at 01:04 PM