



Heath Coffield

August 20, 1940 - November 8, 2008

Heath Lauer Coffield, 68 of Chicago, Illinois, passed away peacefully in her home, with her daughter by her side, on Saturday, November 8, 2008 after a 10 year long struggle with Early Onset Alzheimer's and probable Frontotemporal dementia. Heath was born on August 20, 1940 in Highland Park, Illinois to Charles F. and Sylvia McKay Lauer. She grew up on Orchard Lane in Wilmette and graduated from New Trier High School in 1958. Heath then attended St. Lawrence University in Canton, NY where she was a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority and recognized as an accomplished fine arts student whose works were exhibited at Middlebury College in Vermont . Upon graduation, she was married to her childhood friend, Michael W. Coffield on June 6, 1962 and they spent the next two years teaching at Chung Chi University in Hong Kong. Mike and Heath enjoyed 45 years of marriage and friendship until his untimely passing in March of 2007. Heath was a devoted wife and mother and raised her family in Evanston, IL and then in Winnetka, IL where she spent countless hours volunteering for Hadley School for the Blind and taking care of her much loved friends and family. She was a wonderful cook and homemaker and described by her friends as "a girl who loved a party". Always looking for ways to bring comfort to others', Heath was a woman with a remarkable spirit and zest for life. She was a selfless person who tried to take care of her caregivers even as her dementia progressed. She was a lover of the outdoors, and enjoyed tennis and skiing and golf as well as hiking and camping with her family. Dogs and

babies also brought her endless joy. In her final 20 months of life, she lived in Fort Collins, Colorado near her daughter Kate, under 24-hour care. During that time, Heath displayed incredible courage and grace as the dementia robbed her of her ability to communicate through words. She remained active until the very end, walking and riding a three-wheeled bicycle under the constant supervision of live-in caregivers. Her family is forever indebted to the friends and family who made her care possible. She was deeply loved and will be deeply missed. She is survived by her sisters, Jennifer Bevington and Karen Lindenmeyer, her daughters, Heather (Erik) Barefield and Kate (Rich) Aiello, her grandsons, Michael, Jack, Blake and Connor and many loving nieces and nephews. Services are to be held at Old St. Pat's Church in Chicago, Illinois on Saturday, November 22nd at 9:30 am. A graveside service will immediately follow at All Saint's Catholic Cemetery, 700 River Road, DesPlaines, IL. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Heath Coffield Grandchildren's Education Fund in care of Goes Funeral Care in Fort Collins, Colorado. Charitable contributions may be made to The Home Instead Senior Care Foundation in memory of Heath Coffield, and also sent to Goes Funeral Care 3665 Canal Drive Fort Collins, CO 80524. For more updated information, go to www.goesfuneralcare.com or call them at (970)482-2221.

Tribute Wall



“ *Heath Coffield*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Dear Kate Aiello --*

My wife saw your full page expression of appreciation for the care provided to your mother, Heath Lauer Coffield, in the Fort Collins Coloradoan yesterday. She showed it to me because it mentioned New Trier High School, which I attended briefly. By an interesting coincidence my wife's mother and my sister, like Heath, graduated from New Trier. Looking at your mother's full name, I realized she and I were classmates at Greeley Elementary and at Skokie Jr. High in Winnetka. My family moved from Winnetka when I was in 9th grade.

I can provide you with some memories if you'd care to give me a call in the next few weeks. Don't hurry; I just read that Heath's funeral is this weekend in Chicago.

Best wishes and our sincere condolences,

Bill Mygdal

Bill Mygdal - November 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ We will always remember the times we had with Heath. She was a shining light-full of energy and a never-ending smile.

She impressed us as being a very unique and extraordinary mother. We will always remember the story of her flooding the back yard to create an ice rink for her girls. She also possessed a gift in creating the most beautiful knitted or crocheted sweaters for her grandchildren. We have yet to see anything comparable.

We are so pleased she is no longer suffering and is reunited with the love of her life, Big Mike.

We will never forget you. Love, Jeanne & Don

Don & Jeanne Bates - November 08, 2008 at 12:00 AM