



Margaret J. Riedesel

February 9, 2025

Margaret Joan (Anderson) Riedesel passed away on the morning of February 9, 2025, in Lakewood, CO at 89 years old. She was previously a longtime resident of Estes Park, CO.

The themes of hard work, play, and adventure ran through her life.

Born June 14, 1935, Margaret grew up on a farm on the border of southern Minnesota and Iowa. She attended a rural one room schoolhouse in Iowa and East Chain high school in Minnesota. She graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN.

While she focused on her studies during the school year, she found adventure during her summers, working at a lodge in the Boundary Waters of Ely, MN and working at Lake Geneva, WI college camp.

She met her lifetime partner and sweetheart, Keith Riedesel, while working at George Williams College summer camp. Margaret worked in food service and Keith on the waterfront, lifeguarding and giving sailboat rides. Later they met again in Europe when Keith and his twin brother were stationed with the Army in Frankfurt, and Margaret was spending her summer biking and busing through Europe with her cousin.

After graduating from Gustavus Adolphus College she taught physical education at both grade school and secondary levels.

Margaret and Keith were married in 1959 and raised two children in a log home they built in The Ledges near Roscoe, IL. There they also cared for three little girls, all foster children between 1968 and 1972.

Her love of family and friends ran deep, and there was a special place in her heart for children, animals, and ice cream.

A proud Swede, Christmas was often celebrated with a houseful of fun-loving Swedish family members busy in the kitchen concocting dishes of lutefisk and korv, and for dessert, spritz, rosettes, and fattigman. The house decorated with wall hangings wishing "God Jul."

When not teaching or running a household, family vacations were planned and enjoyed. Many wonderful times were had visiting family and friends, Colorado for hiking and skiing, and Disney! Margy immersed herself in the World of Disney, or as she would say, "the place where I get to become a kid again!"

Keith and Margy realized their dream of moving to Estes Park, CO in 1995 after completing their log home with beautiful mountain views. Retirement consisted of working in the food service at the YMCA of the Rockies.

Her time working at the Y was to fill the travel coffers and adventure off with Keith and those who could join in, to: Hawaii to soak up the sun, dig toes into the sand, and savor hula pie; Scandinavia to visit relatives and explore the city and country; Canada to enjoy the natural beauty; Branson to be entertained and meet best friends halfway. There was nothing better than a trip to look forward to! "Off for fun we go" is taped to the front of her travel folder.

Margaret's life is best expressed by her sign that reads: "Live Well. Laugh Often. Love Much."

Preceded in death by her mother and father, Lillie and Roy Anderson, and brother, James Anderson. Survived by her husband, Keith Riedesel, son Paul Riedesel (Kim Porter), and daughter Heidi Riedesel.

A memorial service will be held on June 14th, 2025 at Shepherd of the Mountain Lutheran Church in Estes Park, CO.

If you would like to reach out directly to the family, please contact Goes Funeral Care for information.

Tribute Wall

TL

“ Margaret was an aid in my classroom in the late 80's early nineties. I enjoyed working with her as she had a good sense of humor work ethic. I am glad that she lived a long life.

Toni Anderson Larson - March 12, 2025 at 10:35 AM

HR

Toni, thank you for writing. We so appreciate you sharing your experience with mom. With gratitude, Heidi

Heidi Riedesel - April 02, 2025 at 08:13 AM

JN

“ Dear Keith. Heidi and Paul, very sorry to hear about the passing of Margret. She worked with us at Kinnikinnick for a few years. We enjoyed our time because our lunch time gave us time to visit. Since we had both of her kids at school and we also new Keith from First National Bank. Since My wife Marlene was part Swedish they talked food and tradition. Also, we had Saymods which she could relate too. Your mother was a lovely lady and always very positive. Again, sorry for your loss.
John and Marlene Novota Roscoe, Illinois

john novota - March 09, 2025 at 10:41 PM

HR

John and Marlene, We so appreciate your kind words and memories. Thank you for writing. I know mom enjoyed those lunchtime conversations very much. With gratitude, Heidi

Heidi Riedesel - April 02, 2025 at 08:10 AM

BT

“ *Barbara Thorne lit a candle in memory of Margaret Riedesel*



Barbara Thorne - March 09, 2025 at 07:24 PM

BT

“ *While living in Roscoe, I had the great pleasure of knowing the Riedesel family, all four of them! Margret and I taught at the same school, became great friends and traveled to her favorite place Disney World where Keith had two women to keep in line...memories will keep us smiling even at this time of grief. Be strong my friends and know she is whole and waiting for all of us to reunite in heaven... Bobbie Thorne*

Barbara Thorne - March 09, 2025 at 07:20 PM

HR

Bobbie! So many memories and so much fun. Thank you for being a part of our family. Much gratitude, Heidi

Heidi Riedesel - April 02, 2025 at 08:18 AM