



Claudette M. Gates

October 4, 1932 - November 9, 2021

Decatur - Claudette M. Gates, 89, of Decatur, IL, passed away November 9, 2021, at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Illinois after a short illness.

Claudette was born in Detroit, MI, the daughter of Claude and Theresa Pepler. The family moved to Fort Lauderdale, FL where Claudie pursued a modeling career and worked at the Fort Lauderdale courthouse. After her first marriage in 1951 to James O. Morton, Claudie's daughter Michelle (Shelly) was born. In 1957, she married Joe I. Gates of Decatur and at the age of 26, became the mother of the four children of Joe and the late Helen Madeira Gates. With the addition of Shelly, the new family became affectionately known as "the Gates kids." Claudie devoted much of her life to Joe, her adoring husband of 47 years, and to the loving care of the five children that completed her family. She enjoyed playing golf in her more active years and traveled widely with Joe, including two visits to Australia. In later years, Claudie's fervent desire was to maintain her independent living in the home that she and Joe had shared. To her great credit, she was successful in fulfilling that wish.

Surviving are her children Joseph Jeffrey of Chandler AZ; Joelen of Mansfield Center, CT and her daughters Jia and Selina; Shelly Ronald and her husband Peter of Warrnambool, Australia and their son Eric; Jeri Crouse and her husband Bruce of Marietta, GA and their son Brent; and Janine Nelson and her husband James of Sun City, AZ and their children Daniel, Niccole, Jillian and Jimmy; six great grandchildren, and her nephew Dr. Tom Davey and his wife Mary of Mt Zion, IL.

Claudie was preceded in death by her husband Joe, her parents, sister Yvonne Moody, and her grandson Lee Ronald.

The family would like to give special thanks to Minnie Hunter who provided companionship and care for Claudia for the past eight years and to the staff at Carle Foundation Hospital for their care and compassion in the final days of her life.

Private graveside services will be held at Graceland Cemetery.

Condolences may be left to the family at <http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com>

Cemetery

Graceland Cemetery

2091 N. Oakland Avenue

Decatur, IL, 62526

Comments



“ So sorry to hear about our Claudie. When our family moved in a few doors away we met Joe and Cassie walking. Not long after Joe passed away. We shared many great talks on her driveway and appreciated her friendship more than she probably knew. The hardest part about moving was not having Claudie a few doors away. We have such great memories and will cherish the times we shared. She used to get so worried watching our kids ramp their bikes off her porch and skid in the cul-de-sac. We would tell the kids to stay off Claudie’s drive and then she would be hollering for them to come right back over! She was so proud of her family and would tell us about them often. We will miss her and cherish the time we were neighbors.
With Love, John and Desiree Renfro and family.

John Renfro - November 20, 2021 at 05:30 PM



“ Thinking of you all at this time of loss.
Comforting to know Claudie was able to remain independent until the end which was her wish, and to know she had family close by.
Fond memories of her visit with Joe to Australia and the wonderful hospitality shown to my parents Bob and Flora Ronald when they visited Decatur.
Sending our love and condolences,
Judi and Graham Hocking
Melbourne Australia

Judi Hocking - November 19, 2021 at 05:29 PM



“ Echoing my sister Judi's sentiments and sending love and sympathy to Claudie's family " the Gates kids"
Jane Carpenter
Melbourne, Australia

Jane - November 19, 2021 at 07:51 PM