

Obituaries

Diane Walker Stuebner

Diane Walker Stuebner, beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and friend passed away on May 31, 2026 at the age of 94. She died peacefully in her sleep surrounded by loved ones.

Diane was born on December 12, 1931 in Pittsburg, KS to Virginia Greef Walker and Lawrence Walker. She enrolled at the University of Kansas, graduating in 1953 with a bachelor's degree in English. At KU, Diane was an active member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. In her adult years, she gathered with a group of Kappas each year for several decades. Later in life, Diane was an ardent fan of the Jayhawks men's basketball team.

Diane married James Cloyd Stuebner in November 1954 in Illinois. Diane and Jim raised four children in Minnesota during their 35 years of marriage. While her children were growing up, Diane volunteered actively in the Junior League and at St. David's Episcopal church. She played tennis, joining several long-tenured ladies doubles groups who played weekly and nurtured close friendships.

In the mid-1970s, Diane decided to return to school. She graduated in 1981 with a Master's in Social Work from the University of Minnesota. She helped children and families as a school social worker at Deephaven Elementary School for over 15 years. Social work was "in Diane's blood." Her family and friends knew her as someone who had a generous heart, a listening ear, and a big smile. Diane was a great conversationalist who truly took the time to understand the interests, feelings, and dreams of everyone she met.

Diane was a gifted pianist with perfect pitch. She was recognized early in her childhood for her musical abilities. She brought music to family gatherings and social events, encouraging others to gather around her and sing along as she played. A lifelong learner, Diane took lessons in her 70s to learn how to play the pipe organ.

Her faith and service were a central part of her life and she was an active member of St. David's Episcopal Church and St. Mark's Cathedral (Minnesota), and St. Michael's (Boise, ID). Diane volunteered her time in many ways including delivering meals to families, offering communion to those who could not attend church, and playing piano at senior centers to bring music and joy into seniors' lives.

Diane had a passion for traveling. In addition to visiting and traveling with family, she frequently participated with a small group of friends in Elderhostel programs that took her across the world.

Diane loved her dogs, and all animals. Most of all, she treasured moments with her family. She was always there for her six grandchildren, teaching reading and manners, and attending many graduations, sporting events, musical recitals, and other special occasions.

Diane is survived by her four children Kathy (Michael), Steve (Wendy), Jim (Bryn), and Sue; six grandchildren: Julia, Quinn, Drew, Cailey, Jake, and Bridget; two great grandchildren: Hattie and Frankie; her cousin Linda (John), and Linda's four children.

Diane's children are grateful to those who cared for her so lovingly during the last several years, including Joyce Conley, and the entire staff at the Arbor, Folkestone's memory care unit.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Donations in Diane's memory may be made to Folkestone or Optage Hospice (via Presbyterian Homes and Services) or to St. David's Episcopal Church in Minnetonka, MN.



Short/From page 7

intoxicating license may be issued only to exclusive liquor stores. It permits "off-sales" of intoxicating liquor and 3.2 percent malt liquor, as well as ice, soft drinks, and all forms of tobacco, according to city code.

In 2010, the Minnetonka Council determined that having 12 off-sale establishments is generally adequate to serve the city, as a larger amount would increase community access to liquor and could raise public safety concerns.

While reviewing the concept plan, Minnetonka Community Development Director Julie Wischnack reminded the council of the city's liquor license policy, which lists the maximum number of off sale establishments permitted in the city as 12. The city currently has 11.

The policy states that when considering a business for an off sale license, the council must use sole discretion to determine if the business in-question: "a. offers a distinctive specialty service, or b. is a complementary part of a business that would add positively to the experience of living and working in the city; or c. is part of a village center that is not currently served."

Minnetonka Mayor Rebecca Schack felt that granting the proposed restaurant with the necessary licenses for daily operations is worth exploring, given the business' distinct specialty wine services.

"There is an appeal to the vineyard experience, kind of what you get when you go to a tasting room at a vineyard and have the gift shop there. So, I think this is unique enough and

doesn't scratch the same itch as all the other liquor offerings in the Ridgedale area," Schack said.

Councilmember Wilburn seconded this sentiment and explained that while she doesn't think another off-sale location in the Ridgedale area is necessary, she feels the unique dining concept would add positive value to the surrounding areas.

Though slightly reluctant, Councilmember Calvert also supported the restaurant concept, crediting the applicant's architectural design plans and the unique contributions the business could bring to the local dining experience for residents.

"This feels very niche to me and I think that could be a good thing and it could also be a drawback, but I can't think of a reason not to try it and we have vacancies in the Ridgedale area that we could fill. It's a very specific demographic," Calvert said.

If the proposal advances, an ordinance amendment and potentially a conditional use permit would be required. The franchise has approximately 75 locations across the nation. If future approval of the project is granted, it could become the chain's first Minnesota location.

KWIK TRIP

The council also discussed a concept plan for a 7,000-square-foot Kwik Trip convenience and fuel store that would require the demolition of an existing gas station and four homes on properties located north of Minnetonka Boulevard.

The store would have

eight multiple product dispensers (MPDs) with 16 fueling positions and 31 parking stalls on a 1.95-acre site on the northwest corner of U.S. Highway 169 and Minnetonka Boulevard. A buffer — likely a fence — would be installed around the site's perimeter to separate the store from the neighborhood on the north side; and two access points would be included off Minnetonka Boulevard and F Street.

Council members Kissy Coakley (Ward 4) and Wilburn raised questions about the delivery of gas to the site, while Councilmember Calvert expressed concerns about the project's environmental impacts, given the site's proximity to Minnehaha Creek.

"A semi-truck could not gas up here, unlike larger Kwik Trips that you may see in further out areas of Minnesota," Minnetonka City Planner Susan Thomas said.

"The semis can deliver gas," Wischnack said. "There's enough room for that to happen... if they would have a semi area for gas filling, that would be a whole other area and so they just don't physically have enough room. So the field for filling is just not there. Filling the actual gas tanks below ground, yes, they can get in there for that."

Schack also raised concerns about traffic flow and the viability of the proposed location for larger vehicle access, given the site's distance to nearby freeway ramps. Thomas noted that a traffic study would only be

See **SHORT** | **PAGE 9**

Obituaries

Suzanne Anderson Carlson

Suzanne Anderson Carlson, 89, passed away on June 7, 2026 in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was born on February 12, 1937, in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Suzanne was preceded in death by her husband, Douglas B. Carlson; her parents, Ella Margaret Johnson, Murphy Lee Anderson, and James Carlyle Evans; and her brother, W. Crew Anderson. She was the granddaughter of former Knox County Sheriff Walter C. Anderson.

She is survived by her son James Craig Jr. (Sheri) of Bethesda, Maryland, daughter Margaret Craig of Minneapolis, and stepson Mark Carlson (Barb) of LeSueur, Minnesota. She is also survived by her grandchildren Chelsae Seebach, Caitlin Seebach, Charley Seebach, Alyssa Craig, and Jordan Carlson (Kala Hanson); great-granddaughter Adelaide Carlson; step grandchildren Jenny Sprague Ross (Eric) and Jesse Sprague; step great-grandchildren Owen Ross and James Sprague; and dear friends James and Roberta Craig.

A longtime resident of Knoxville, Suzanne graduated from Young High School in 1955 and later attended the University of Tennessee School of Nursing. Suzanne moved to Minnesota in 1974. She worked in real estate and assisted her husband in operating the Gold Nugget restaurant in Minnetonka. Following her husband's death, she returned to Knoxville in 2008 as an original owner in the Holston Condominium, eventually becoming a board member. Suzanne's warmth, generosity, and kindness within the Holston and the Market Square neighborhood touched countless lives. Those who knew her understood how truly special and gracious she was. She returned to Minnesota in 2024 to live near family.

Family received friends from 12:00 to 1:00 PM on Sunday, June 14, 2026 at Berry Highland Memorial, 5315 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37919. They reconvened at Woodlawn Cemetery, 4500 Woodlawn Pike, Knoxville, TN 37920 for a 2:00 PM graveside service.

Memories and condolences may be shared online at www.berryhighlandmemorial.com



*Those we love don't go away, they walk beside us
everyday unseen, unheard but
always near, still loved, still missed, and very dear*

Create a Tribute to the Loved One Whose Memory Lives On Forever in Your Heart

Honor the memory of your cherished one by sharing the story of their life with friends, neighbors and associates here in the community.



Obituaries

Go to: hometownsource.com/place_obituaries/

Email obits@apgecm.com or Call 763-241-3651