



## Maria Waring

December 1, 1934 - March 17, 2022

A Private Graveside Service for Maria will be held in the Geneva Public Cemetery. A public Celebration Of Life will be held at a later date this spring/summer.

Memorials are suggested to the Geneva Arts Council or the Geneva Public Library.

Maria Waring was born in Menton, France to Nikolaus von Kondrascheff and Margarete (Kleeman) von Kondrascheff on December 1, 1934 and left this world on March 17, 2022 in Lincoln, Nebraska. Maria met and married Robert Bennett Waring of Geneva, Nebraska in February of 1956. Maria and Bob were married for 52 happy, exciting years before his passing in March of 2008. To this union were born, three daughters; Helen Alexandra, Mary Kathryn and Anne Margaret. Maria and Bob's girls had many wonderful opportunities to learn and enjoy this great big, wide world we live in because their parents were always curious people and educated their children by including them in their travels.

Maria was a constant companion to Bob on the farm and during their life together. She was a hard worker in the garden, and her two large yards were always filled with lovely flowers and fruit trees. She was always up for travel

and adventure as she was born and raised in war torn Europe. Maria's parents and their young family first lived in Menton, France until Maria was five. To escape from the Italian border where fighting was occurring during WWII, the family moved inland to Puget-Ville, France until Maria was 10 years old. The family was essentially country-less. She remembered her family being forced to leave France because in 1944 Hitler made a law that ordered all persons from Silesia to return (Maria's mother grew up in Grunberg, Silesia). The family walked all the way to Grunberg, but when they arrived there were 4 Polish families living in Maria's grandparents' house. Since the von Kondrascheff family would have to become Polish if they stayed, they walked to the Nordrhein-Westphalen area of northern Germany and settled in Sennestadt (now Bielefeld) Germany. Food was always sparse during and after the war.

After Maria finished high school, she lived in London with a family to work as an au pair. There she improved her English language skills. While traveling through Europe by train there was that fateful day in 1956 when she met a handsome, vivacious young man named Robert Waring. They happened to be riding in the same train car together traveling from Copenhagen to Paris. Bob had brought along a picnic basket filled with food and invited everyone in that car to partake. Maria and he soon fell in love and the rest was a whirlwind romance of skiing in the Alps, lots of laughter and finally getting married in Geneva, Switzerland a few weeks later! Maria was welcomed with open arms by her parents in law, Robert Waring Sr. and his wife, Vera in Bob's hometown of Geneva, Nebraska. Maria quickly assimilated into American life by joining The United Methodist Church, volunteering by becoming a Girl Scout leader, playing in bridge clubs, being a member of Kensington, and this past year she celebrated her 65th year as a member of Chapter O, PEO.

Maria was an industrious, tireless woman who hardly ever sat still. She was a good match for a man who had lots of ideas to try, like raising Registered

Herefords, raising greenhouse vegetables, making homemade wine, going to the lake, playing tennis, snorkeling and scuba diving, flying, sailing, and traveling too. Maria earned her private pilots license and she still flew their airplane even after Bob passed (they were both members of Flying Farmers of Nebraska). Maria was a perfect first mate to Captain Bob on their sailboat. She was extremely organized, was multi-lingual and a good translator in the many countries in which they traveled, and she acquired her ham radio operator's license so they could be in contact with passing ships. Together, Bob and Maria circumnavigated the world on their 44' foot oceangoing sailboat named, of course, "Countess Maria" and on the transom of that boat is painted the homeport of Geneva, Nebraska! They were long time members of the SSCA (Seven Seas Cruising Association) and achieved "Commodores" status in that international organization. Maria and Bob were great postcard writers and their families were always happy to find out where in the world they had been.

Maria was a brave soul and loved traveling, so even after Bob died she still kept traveling on Ocean and River Cruises. She enjoyed her many friends down in Florida and loved entertaining for special occasions in her neighborhood. She had many good times attending her artist friends' gallery openings through the years. Maria's Christmas card list was quite extensive with people she had met from all over the world. She was a true nature lover and had a special affection for the wild animals on the farm. She had a soft spot in her heart for dogs, so she always had treats for her friends' dogs in Florida named Dixie and Romeo. She enjoyed having beloved grand dogs Shotzi, Ally, and Jack perform their many tricks for her.

Later in life, Maria became quite a photographer showing at the Nebraska State Fair and the Fillmore County Fair and winning many ribbons. Maria was a great help to her daughter Helen by attending her "Helen's Musical Hats!"

shows. Maria would help load in and out and would sit in the front row to be Helen's photographer, especially in Florida. She was Helen's greatest fan and will be sorely missed!

Maria loved her husband greatly. After Bob passed, she spent more time with Helen, Mary and Anne's families. Maria enjoyed and loved her grandchildren; John, Genevieve and Jeffrey who grew up in Geneva, Wyn and Dane Wiley who grew up in Lincoln and Christopher and Jeremy Brown who grew up in Kearney. She attended as many of their sporting events and musical activities as she could. Maria was great at getting the families together out at the farm for joint birthday parties. More joy came into her life with the births of "Mia's" 9 great grandchildren (with one more soon on the way)! Their names are; Parker, Remi and Logan Korbelik, Jack, Noah and Emmie Johnson and Milo, Heidi and Eli Brown. She enjoyed visiting and playing with them immensely.

Maria was preceded in death by her Husband, Robert B. Waring; Parents Nikolaus and Margarete von Kondrascheff; Step Brother, Alex; Sister-in-Law, Erika (Peter) Kondrascheff; Parents in law, Robert and Vera Waring; Son in Law, Jeff Brown; and Son in Law, Steve Wiley.

She is survived by her Brother, Peter Kondrascheff of Bielefeld, Germany; Nephew, Armin Kondrascheff of Germany; Children, Helen (Jeff) Johnson of Geneva, Mary (Tom Paltani) Waring of Lincoln and Anne (Bill) McCracken of Johnson Lake; grandchildren John (Trisha) Johnson of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Genevieve (Brandon) Korbelik of Geneva, Jeffrey Johnson of Omaha, Wyn Wiley of Bend, Oregon, Dane Wiley of Lincoln, Christopher and Christina Brown of Ord, and Jeremy Brown of Branson, Missouri; and great grandchildren Parker, Remi, and Logan Korbelik, Jack, Noah and Emmie Johnson, and Milo, Heidi and Eli Brown.

Over and out, Mia! Bon Voyage!

We love you!

# Cemetery Details

## **Geneva Public Cemetery**

Geneva, NE 68361

# Tribute Wall

JT

“ Dear Friends,  
We met Maria and Robert in Nouvelle Caledonie Noumea many years ago. We found out with deep sorrow of them both passing away. And of the yacht being for sale. Please accept our condolences. We were invited on the yacht Countess Martia for a bottle of wine and a cheese platter. latter on Bob and Maria visited Australia, Melbourne and we met again. Along the years for a while we kept in touch exchanging letters from Nebraska to Australia. Now we are residing in Brasov, Romania having dual citizenship; Australian and Roumanian. With pleasure we would like to exchange some more memories of Maria and Bob. Our e-mail address is: 3hoinari@gmail.com. kindest regards, Julian and Viorica Tocaciu

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**Julian Tocaciu** - April 09, 2023 at 10:17 AM

TA

“ I was a classmate of Ann Waring at GHS. I have very fond memory of Maria during Girl Scouts meetings at the Waring house. She was a very fine lady, very interesting when she discuss her own family history. Robert and Maria were always very supportive of their daughters. She will be greatly missed. Teresa O'Brien Anderson, Yutan, NE



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**Teresa Anderson** - March 22, 2022 at 10:26 AM

DM

“ Maria was our neighbor for years. She will be missed! Condolences to her family!

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**Dorothy & Harold Moravec** - March 19, 2022 at 01:01 PM