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Corrine S. Spector

Age: 63

Jun 16, 2005

SERVICES: Memorial services will be at 2 p.m. Saturday at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook. As Corrine wished, there will be no reviewal, but family will be greeting her friends for one hour prior to the service at the church. The Rev. Dennis Paulson will be the officiant. Interment will be in the Echo Community Cemetery, Echo, Minn. Memorials are preferred to the Trinity Lutheran Church Flower Fund or to the Cook Public Library. Arrangements are with the Mlaker Funeral Home, Cook.

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Corrine S. Spector, 63, of Cook, died on Tuesday, June 14, 2005, at St. Mary's Medical Center in Duluth, due to complications related to cardiomyopathy.



Ms. Spector was born on Sept. 23, 1941, at her grandparents' farm in Sioux Agency Township, Echo, Minn. She was the 10th of the 13 children of Mildred (Aarseth) and Lawrence Slettedahl. She graduated from Wood Lake High School in 1959 and St. Cloud State College in 1963. She later obtained her master's degree in education with an emphasis in American Indian education in 1977 and completed her sixth year certification in administration in 1985, both at the University of Minnesota-Duluth.

Corrine taught English at Roosevelt High School in Virginia from 1965 to 1968 and was employed by the St. Louis County Schools from 1969 to 1995. She taught English and speech at Orr High School and Cherry High School and coached competitive speech, was a yearbook advisor, class play advisor and homeroom advisor for many of "her kids."

She found her students to be a source of endless joy and was so very proud of all of her "kids." She tried to govern her life by two quotes: "Whatever is, is right." (Alexander Pope, English poet and essayist) and "Choose a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life." (Often attributed to Confucius).

Corrine was the first female secondary school principal hired by Independent School District 2142 (then ISD 710) and served in that capacity in AlBrook High School, Orr High School, Cook High School and returned to AlBrook in 1992. She was diagnosed with cardiomyopathy in 1994 and was placed on full-term disability in 1995.

During her educational career, she was active in the local, regional and state level of professional organizations such as the Minnesota Education Association and served as president of the St. Louis County Secondary School Principals, secretary-treasurer of the Northeastern Division and was also a member of the National Association of Secondary School Principals. She was one of 28 Minnesota principals selected as a Bush Fellow in the Bush Principals Leadership Program V for 1990-1992.

Her hobbies and interests included canoeing, fishing, small game hunting, reading, writing, flower gardening, genealogy and photography. Although not a native of Northeastern Minnesota, she became thoroughly at home among the rivers, rocks, lakes and forests.

Corrine was an active and dedicated member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cook, having served on its church council, including vice president in 2004, and being church historian and on the building and grounds committee, and in WELCA. She belonged to the Red Hat Society, Cook Garden Club, “Rappers and Readers” Group, Sons of Norway and MENSA.

She is survived by a son, Jonathan (Julie) Spector of Chisholm; a daughter, Cassandra Bevin Spector of Hibbing; four grandchildren, Jordan David Spector, Jennifer Karine Spector, Jared Lars Spector and Reghan Jamisen Berg; three brothers, Robert (Karla) Slettedahl of Granite Falls, Minn., George (Linda) Slettedahl of Cottonwood, Minn., and David (Carol) Slettedahl of Wood Lake, Minn.; four sisters, Shirley Lecy of Granite Falls, Mildred (Ordean)Bruss of Roseville, Minn., Barbara Gertsema of Columbia Heights, Minn., and Lorraine (David) Thompson of Rapid City, S.D.; numerous nieces, nephews, and friends, along with her beloved pets, Maggie, Polly, Fannie and Phoebe.

In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by five brothers, Kenneth, Lawrence Jr., James, Dale and Lars Slettedahl, and a brother-in-law, Lawrence Lecy.

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