

Blanche Iona Meek Rigert

February 4, 1936 – March 28, 2019

Blanche Iona Meek Rigert was born on February 4, 1936 in Aurora, Illinois to Edith (Thomas) Meek and Stafford D. Meek. She and her siblings were raised on the family farm in Elburn, Illinois. After graduating from high school, Blanche continued her studies in music education at Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. Blanche taught junior high music for three years, during which she met and married Max Rigert on February 9, 1963.



Blanche and Max moved to Mineral Point, Wisconsin to serve the Congregational United Church of Christ. There they welcomed their first born child Hans, who died tragically at the age of six months. With great joy they welcomed daughter Heidi in 1965. Blanche continued her adventures of a young mother, and wife of a minister, as she joined Max on a three year tour of military chaplaincy in Germany. In 1966, prior to deployment, son Franz was born in South Carolina. Daughter Gretchen was born in 1968 in Nuremburg, Germany. They enjoyed exploring Europe during these adventurous years. With three children under the age of four, Blanche and Max returned to the states to settle in Delavan, Wisconsin where they would remain for 40 years. Daughter Krista was born in 1973.

During those 40 years, Blanche was a private piano teacher for hundreds of students, directed the children's choir at the Congregational United Church of Christ in Delavan for 25 years, and sang in the adult choir throughout her tenure. Additionally, she became a substitute teacher and an accompanist for several young musicians. Blanche was active in nearly all church activities and became a dedicated PEO member.

In 2009, Blanche and Max moved to the Fairhaven Retirement Community in Whitewater. Three years ago she entered Hearthstone Memory Care and eventually full nursing care until her death on March 28, 2019. Blanche was particularly known for the comfort and ease she brought to others, whether it was through her homemade baked goods and her garden preserves or her radiant smile and quick laughter.

Blanche was preceded in death by both of her parents, her brother Stafford Meek, Jr., and her first born son, Hans Frederick. She is survived by husband Max Rigert to whom she was married for 56 years and four children and their families. Heidi Rigert (friend Clive) and children Alexius, Nicholas and Elizabeth Burton; Franz Rigert (Trinn) and children Mitchell, Jordan and Marianna Rigert; Gretchen Rigert Navarro (Dave) and children Mia, Nathan and Anika Navarro; Krista Rigert Kim (Eric) and children David, Lewis and Nadia Kim. She is also survived by her sister Blen Lakin (Perry), brother Lee Meek (Joanne), sister in law Charlotte Meek, sister in law Margaret Tyne (Lee) and several nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the Fairhaven Memorial Fund.