

Jean Elizabeth Timmons Frost, 1917 - 2008

Jean Elizabeth Timmons Frost died peacefully in her home in Aspen Ridge Lodge, Los Alamos, New Mexico, on November 16, 2008.

Jean was born on March 30, 1917 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. She was the daughter of Viney Mae Andrew Timmons and Herbert Fletcher Timmons. Her father was a railroad roundhouse foreman for the Soo Line Railroad, and Jean grew up in the small railroad towns of Gladstone, Michigan; Enderlin, North Dakota; and Glenwood, Minnesota. She graduated from Glenwood High School in 1935. It was in Glenwood that she met the chemistry teacher who would become her husband, Reuben B. "Jack" Frost.

Jean went on to study Speech Pathology at the University of Minnesota, graduating with honors in 1939. She married Jack Frost on July 25, 1939. Theirs was a romance of more than 50 years. Jean and Jack raised ten children while they lived in Bemidji, Minnesota; Orlando, Florida; Chicago, Illinois; Brookings, South Dakota; Eugene, Oregon; Wilbraham, Massachusetts; and Ft. Garland, Colorado. During this time, Jean rarely missed either her children's events or home games that her college-coach husband was coaching.

She was an intrepid traveler, approaching new experiences and places with energy, efficiency, equanimity, and curiosity. During her adult life she traveled to every state in the union, plus a number of foreign countries, including Greece, China, Korea and Australia. She back-packed on the Appalachian Trail in her 60s and learned to snorkel and boogie board in her 70s.

A keen intellect and quick and wonderful sense of humor were trademarks of Jean's personality, qualities that stayed with her to the end, even as her short-term memory failed her. She was deeply interested in other people, and loved to listen to their stories. This openness and kindness made her an exceptional hostess for the many international students and the myriad of invited speakers and honored guests of the colleges at which her husband taught.

Volunteer par excellence, Jean was service oriented all her life. She served on many committees that involved her children's activities. Her deep and living faith translated into involvement in almost every aspect of the congregational life of the various Lutheran churches she and her family belonged to. Her family is proud that she was the first woman ever to be elected to the Church Council at their church in Massachusetts.

Jean's volunteer work was characterized by a positive outlook, prodigious energy, unfailing good humor, and a philosophy that no task was too small—or too big. Most recently Jean spent many years serving on the Board of La Puente, an agency serving the homeless and migrant families of the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado, where she and Jack built the retirement home of their dreams.

Jean was preceded in death by her husband, her parents, her brother Holmes Fletcher Timmons, her daughter Margaret Frost Bartlett of Durango, Colorado, and her grandson, Christopher Weisbrod. She is survived by her children and their spouses: Mary Steen and her husband Lynn

of Northfield, Minnesota; son-in-law Ted Bartlett of Durango, Colorado; Kathryn Willcutt and her husband Gordon of Los Alamos, New Mexico; Barbara Frost of San Francisco, California; Helen Frost Thompson and her husband Chad of Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Dorothy Teeter and her husband David of Seattle, Washington; Nancy Simpson of Bryan, Texas; Richard Frost and his wife Emily Bloch of Falmouth, Maine; Karen Cator and her husband Mark of Redwood City, California, and Herbert Frost and his wife Paula of East Greenwich, Rhode Island. Additionally, she is survived by 23 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren. She is a beloved aunt to many nieces and nephews.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, November 22, 2008 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2390 North Road, Los Alamos, New Mexico. Jean will be buried next to her husband in the Spring Grove Cemetery in Spring Grove, Minnesota.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to: The R.B. "Jack" Frost and Jean E. Frost Scholarship in Athletics South Dakota State University Foundation 815 Medary Avenue, Box 525 Brookings, SD 57007; or to: Jean Frost Memorial La Puente Home PO Box 1235 Alamosa, CO 81101.

Our family would like to thank the staff and residents of Aspen Ridge Lodge for their care of, kindness to, and friendship towards Jean these last four and a half years. We are especially grateful for the kind and loving care these last weeks of her life.