



# Paula Lawrence

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*August 19, 1931 - July 5, 2017*

## Obituary

Paula Lawrence 1931–2017 Northfield—Paula Ann Lawrence, 85, of Northfield, MN, formerly of Duluth, passed away peacefully Wednesday, July 5, 2017 at her residence. Paula was born on August 19, 1931 in Duluth to John and Pauline (Osmundson) Swain. Paula grew up in Duluth, the middle child in a family of three girls. Her father John Swain was a coach and athletic director at Central High School and her mother was a housewife. They were a very athletic family and all her life Paula appreciated having been taught the discipline of competitive sports. After graduating from Central High School in 1949 she left Duluth to attend St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN as a premed student. Because of her strong interest in chemistry she changed her major to pharmacy and transferred to North Dakota State University where she received her BS in 1953. Her soon-to-be husband Byron Lawrence chose to become an officer in the US Air Force so pursuing her career as a pharmacist was a challenge. Paula said she moved 15 times in the 18 years she was married. That included a memorable three-year stay in Libya where temperatures often hit 120°F -- and no air conditioning! Paula did manage to work for over 30 years as a pharmacist, mainly in the field of hospital pharmacy. One of Paula's lifelong interests was music. She started violin lessons in elementary school and continued playing in college with the St. Olaf orchestra. Paula also loved to sing and was a member of many church choirs in the many cities she lived. After retirement, Paula returned to Northfield, MN in 1999 to pursue cultural and study opportunities offered at St. Olaf and Carleton College, and at the Cannon Valley Elder Collegium where she especially enjoyed history classes. An added plus were the many old friends who also resided in Northfield. She was a proud P.E.O. member and for many years was active in the Northfield Chapter. She was initially invited to join her mother's chapter in Duluth in 1964 which grew into a long wonderful affiliation with her fellow P.E.O. sisters. Paula was always very happy to receive visits from her son Scott and her two grandchildren, Isabel and Jonah. She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Donna Swain. She is survived by a son, Scott Lawrence of Duluth; two grandchildren, Isabel Lawrence and Jonah Lawrence; a sister, Karen Nestande of Santa Monica, CA. Memorial service 2:30 pm Friday, July 14, 2017 at Lakeside Presbyterian Church. 4430 McCulloch St, Duluth, MN 55804. Pastor Nancy Deever officiating. Private family burial in Forest Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, Memorials to the donor's choice would be appreciated. Arrangements by Dougherty Funeral Home.

*View the Lasting Memories Memorial for Paula Lawrence*