

Hickman, Katherine Heald

Katherine Heald Hickman, age 97, of Winnetka, IL, passed away peacefully on April 10, 2025.



Katherine (Kat) was born in Oak Park, IL, on November 1, 1927, to Mary Morrell Heald and Robert Pinkerton Heald. She grew up in River Forest, IL and graduated from Oak Park High School. She then

followed in her mother's footsteps to Wellesley College, where she earned a degree in Art History. After graduation, she returned to Chicago and worked for Earle Ludgin, a major art collector and advertising executive. She would go on to work for the director of the Art Institute of Chicago and for Harry Weese, founder of his eponymous architectural firm. She loved to explore the world through travel and also lived and worked in San Francisco and Honolulu.

In 1964, at the age of 36, Kat married Frederic (Fred) Hickman, a partner at Hopkins & Sutter in Chicago. They made their home in Lincoln Park, where Kat devoted herself to raising their new family. In 1971, the family relocated to Washington, D.C., where Fred served as Assistant Secretary for Tax Policy at the United States Treasury Department. In 1975, they returned to the Chicago area and settled in Winnetka.

While raising her children, Kat was active in the community. She especially enjoyed her longtime involvement with The Fortnightly Club of Chicago, Chicago's oldest women's club, where she made many wonderful friends and served a term as president.

Throughout their marriage, Kat and Fred treasured summers at their home in Lakeside, MI, where they built many lasting friendships. In retirement winters, they welcomed friends and family to visit them in Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Kat touched many lives with her intelligence and thoughtfulness. She loved to laugh and was known for her dry wit. Her honesty and candor were part of her charm and made her a genuine friend. Kat found joy in reading, art, gardening, playing bridge, and engaging in good conversation. Her artistic sensibility was reflected in the effortless everyday elegance of her home and style.

A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, she is survived by her beloved husband of 60 years, Frederic Hickman; her daughters, Mary Sanders (Stephen) of Austin, TX, and Sara Ridder (Par) of Winnetka, IL; and her five grandchildren: David Sanders, James Sanders, Annie Ridder, Emily Ridder, and Benjamin Ridder.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, April 25, 11 a.m. at Christ Church Winnetka, 784 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, IL.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to a charity of your choice.

