

# ***Kathy Crowe Woudstra***

## Home Economics



After graduating from Cass, I gave up the idea of becoming a nurse. At the time, the thought of contact with body fluids was not my idea of a fun thing to do. Little did I know that motherhood would change my attitude in just six and a half years. In the meantime, I went to Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, leaving in 1962 with an Associate in Arts Certificate. I then went on to Eastern Michigan University, earning my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education in 1964. Next, it was "California, here I come". I went out to Orange County with some college pals and taught in the Garden Grove and Newport Beach School Districts. It was quite an adventure – I hadn't ever been west of Chicago.

During my first year of teaching, I met and married my husband, Chris. We had our beautiful daughter Kim in 1965. We moved to Minnesota in 1969, after my husband's tour in Vietnam was completed, and he was discharged from the Marine Corps. He had a job with Northwest Airlines, and I started my long career with the Saint Paul Public Schools, retiring in 2001. (We divorced in 1975.)

During my thirty seven years of teaching, I have had over one thousand students, and I like to think that I have had a positive impact on them over the decades. One of my most treasured experiences is when a former student contacts me, invites me to a wedding or an Open House, or just shares memories of our time together. That is a true gift. (Plus, it means that I didn't terrify the kid!)

I have lived here in good 'ol Minnesnowta for forty years, and it is home to me. Some folks think I'm delusional, but I do love the place. I received my Master's Degree in Education from the University of Minnesota, or, as we locals say, "The U", in 1977. I do feel conflicted when the Minnesota Gophers play the Michigan Wolverines for the Little Brown Jug. It's tough to choose a favorite!

My daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Paul Kennealy, blessed me with two terrific granddaughters, Devin, 13, and Morgan, 11. They live out in the country, just across the river in Wisconsin. Kim teaches in a middle school in Hastings, MN, and Paul works in the construction industry. The girls have horses and are quite accomplished riders. My greatest joy is being their "Grammy". Life is good!

I look forward to our 50<sup>th</sup> (Gasp!) reunion. See you soon.



Kathy with Devin and Morgan at McDermott's book signing in Minneapolis and her daughter in photo to the right

