



Ilene Rauzi

September 11, 1939 - May 4, 2026

Ilene Rauzi, age 86, passed away peacefully on May 4, 2026, after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's disease.

She was born on September 11, 1939, in Rockvale, Colorado, and carried with her a lifelong spirit of curiosity, independence, and adventure. Ilene pursued her education with dedication, earning her Master's degree from the University of Missouri. She went on to build a meaningful career with the Missouri Department of Mental Health, where she served with compassion and commitment until her retirement.

Ilene was a woman of passions—none more notable than her love of travel and wine. She found joy in exploring the world, especially in Italy, where she cherished time with family and immersed herself in the culture she adored. Whether planning her next adventure or discovering a hidden gem, she approached life with enthusiasm and a sense of wonder.

Her true expertise—and delight—was wine. Ilene didn't just enjoy wine; she lived it. From working at a winery and selling wine to taking classes and traveling to vineyards across the globe, she cultivated a deep knowledge that made her a respected voice among fellow enthusiasts. She delighted in sharing that knowledge, often guiding tastings with ease and humor, and was known for knowing more about the wine than the waiter. For Ilene, a great

glass of wine was best enjoyed in the company of good friends and lively conversation.

Above all, Ilene will be remembered for her vibrant spirit, her curiosity about the world, and her ability to turn ordinary moments into memorable experiences.

She is survived by her daughter, Kristin (Glenn) Leshner of Norman, Oklahoma, and her son, Mark (Tricia) Lensmeyer and grandsons Andrew, James and John of Frisco, Texas. She leaves behind a legacy of love, adventure, and appreciation for life's finer—and more meaningful—moments.

In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to raise a glass of your favorite wine in her honor and share a story, a laugh, or a memory—just as she would have loved. Donations can be made in her memory to the Alzheimer's Association.