



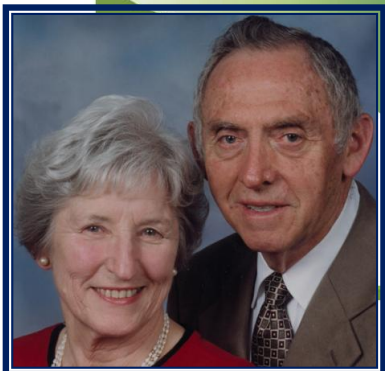
She Did It!

Kathleen B. Priem
1928-2016

Family Tribute

August 13, 2016 (funeral)

By: Rich Priem
eldest child





➤ She Did It!

- Kathleen Priem.
- My Mom, Gramma.
- Mrs. Priem. Kathy.



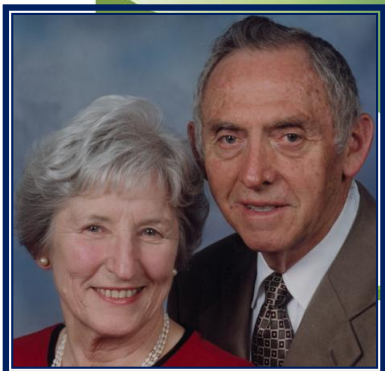
➤ She learned it. She earned it.

- She enjoyed it.
- She appreciated it.
- She just did it!



➤ She had a Zest for Life.

- She wanted to do & experience everything.
- And She did it!





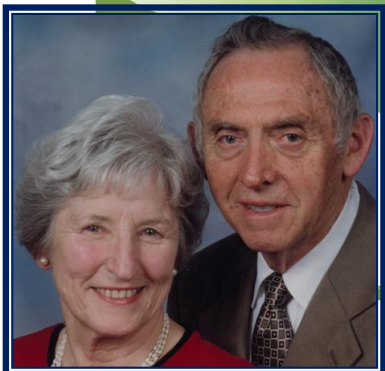
- A second generation immigrant.
 - She dreamed the American Dream.
 - And She did it!



- She was ahead of her time.
 - An agent of change.
 - before Women's Lib had a name.



- A daughter of the Depression
 - She did it.
 - Learning Thrifty as a form of Survival then,
 - Living it as a form of Modesty thereafter.





➤ She valued Education.

- First in her family to go to College.
- Quite unusual for a girl in the 40s,
 - just after the World War.

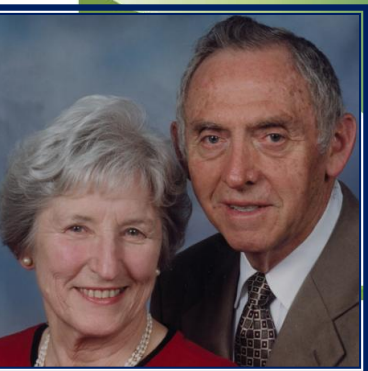


➤ STEM:

- Science, Technology, Engineering, Math.
- Like the Boys, She could do that too.
- Earning a Master's Degree in Mathematics.

➤ Then taking a job at NASA.

- Learning about Computers.
- Running the Department.
 - Assistant Branch Chief,
only in her twenties.





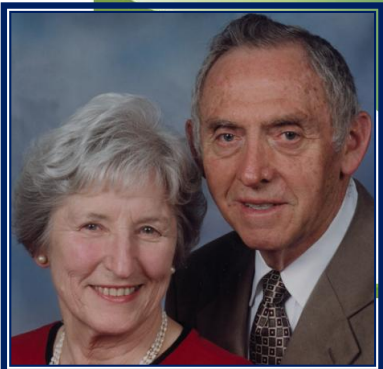
- When the Military called
 - She could do that too!
 - Taking a civilian assignment in France.
 - Then another year in Germany.

- Foreign Languages

- She could do it.
- Learning French & German.
- Living off-base with Locals
 - now lifelong friends.



» Guten Tag,
Frau Else





➤ Dinner with Hitler: She did it

- According to recent stories,
 - but not really.



➤ Alzheimer's Disease: unfortunately

- She did it! Her beautiful mind,
- a super computer, eventually failing.

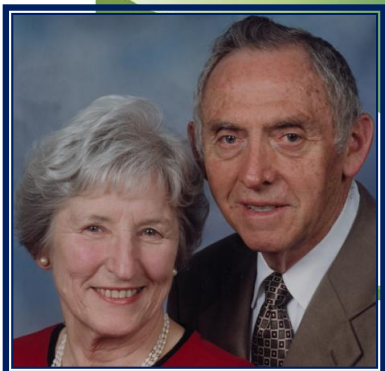
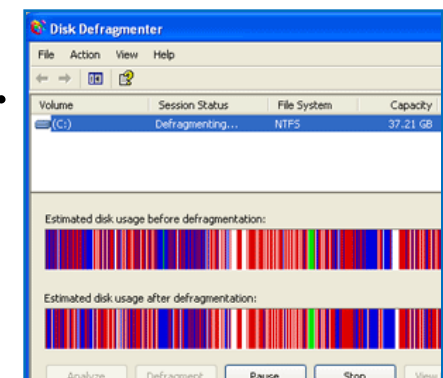


➤ The hard drive

- overflowing with a lifetime of Memories
- slowly scrambled & forgotten.

➤ She told some great tales

- the last few years.
- Mixing the facts in amusing combinations.





➤ Back in the USA

- She knew the astronauts, the engineers & the politicians.



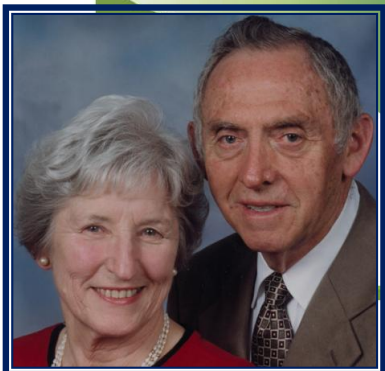
➤ A great catch, She dated them all.

- Eventually one captured her Heart
- My father, Dick Priem
 - a humble rocket scientist.



➤ They wanted children, lots of children.

- And She did it. Five of us.
- She loved the innocent beauty
 - of babies, empty vessels to fill.





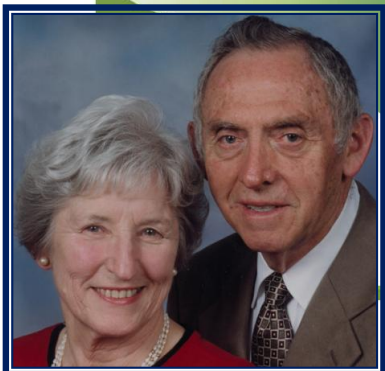
➤ Home Maker: She did it.

- Fancy cakes for every birthday.
- Wonderful meals every evening,
 - spinning around the Lazy Susan.
- Sewing clothes, home furnishings, and Halloween costumes.



➤ Supporting Spouse: She did it.

- Attending technical meetings & conferences with her husband.
- Enthusiastically adding to the social activities.





➤ Bridge Club: She did it.



- Often the Coordinator, often the Champion.



- Remember how we set up card tables in our basement for the annual Duplicate Tournament?

➤ Community Service: She did it.



- Helping get the School here at St. Barts.
 - Then the City Library, and the Rec Center.

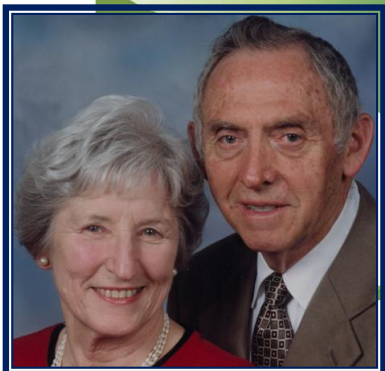
➤ Amateur Photographer: She did it.



- Learning light meters & F-stops to record her memories.
- Then gathering family & friends for slide shows, long before Power Point.



- She did it with a projector, bowls of popcorn, and wonderful stories. . .





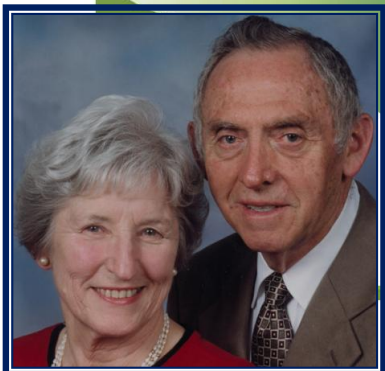
- Teaching: She did it.
 - First a Tutor at my High School.
 - Then a new career as Professor at Tri-C.

- Pushing her Children:

- Yes, indeed, She did it!

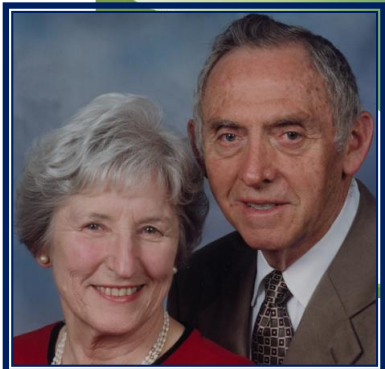
- Little Richie had to

- Recite words & numbers in multiple languages.
 - And learn Chess with her,
 - although I think she let me win just to build my confidence.
 - And there were endless puzzles & books
 - to further evolve my analytical skills.





- She was my best friend & confidant
 - and I miss her greatly.
 - Endless hours on the telephone
 - before long-distance was free.
 - Always offering advice
 - some that I took, some not.
 - But always wanting to know her opinion.





➤ Family Vacations. She did it.

- We saw the country,
 - counting 48 of the 50 states.



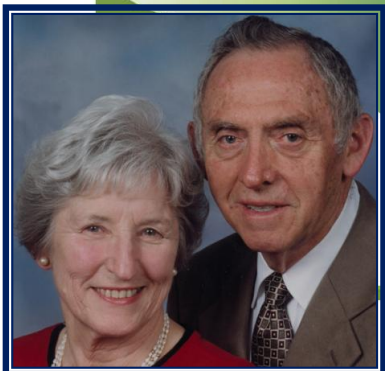
➤ We saw the World, the good and the bad.

- Cities, Countries, Continents.
- Castles & Cathedrals
- Monuments & Museums
 - too many to remember.



➤ And the World saw us. Yes, She did it.

- Global ambassador: hosting & entertaining.
 - Russian Scientists, staying at our house.
- Glasnost: tasting the American Way.
 - She did it. Before Gorbachev even gave it a name, or the Iron Curtain fell.



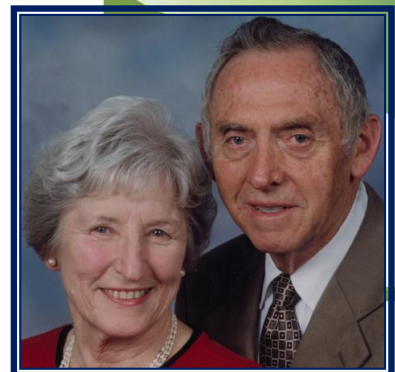
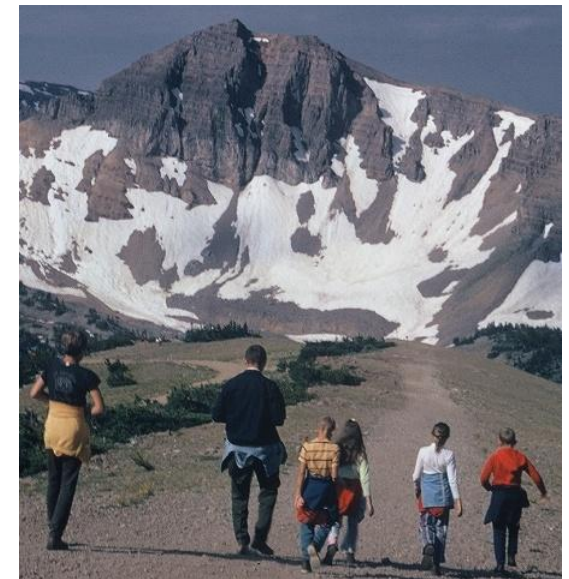


- Recreation: She did that too.
 - The Blue Bomb pulling the pop-up camper.
 - Month long summer vacations every year.
 - We all knew our jobs:
 - setting up camp in no time.



➤ Remember the Hiking Boots?

- All 7 pairs: She did it.
- She got us to the top of the Mountains
 - Both Literally
 - And Figuratively!



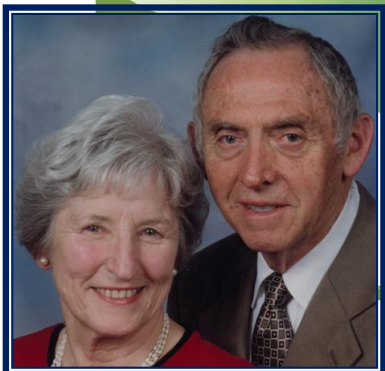


- The Kayaks: She did it.
 - An officer in the Keel Haulers Canoe Club.
 - Helping build boats & gear for our whole family.



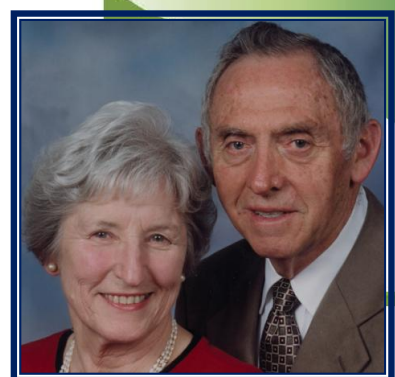
➤ The Rivers:

- The White Water, She did it.
- On her own. Running the Rapids
 - Flipping more than a few times,
 - and trusting her Family to rescue her.





- The Vatican: She did it.
 - A photo with the Pope to prove it,
 - long before cell phones and “selfies”.
- Friendships: She did it.
 - Always a Social Butterfly.
 - Keeping alive relationships as far back as the Girls from grade school.
- Proud Parent: She did it.
 - There for every success,
 - award, graduation, diploma.
 - Then weddings & grand children,
 - and another round of the same celebrations.
- Caretaker, She did it.
 - Living with her widowed Mother
 - as she too faded with dementia.





➤ My Brothers & Sisters.

- My four Siblings. She did it for us.
- She did it for our Family.



➤ She did it by:

- Treating us each as different & unique,
 - yet equal & blessed in our own ways.
- Fiercely independent, yet still co-dependent.

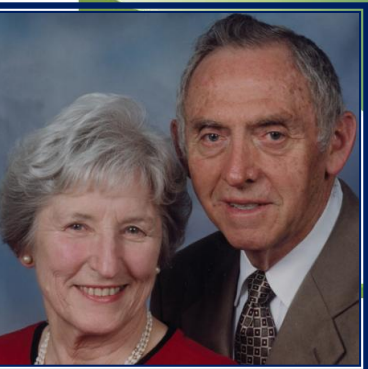
➤ Now lets Us do it

- Honoring our Mother, and
 - The Values we learned here in this Church.



➤ Her Legacy is Us

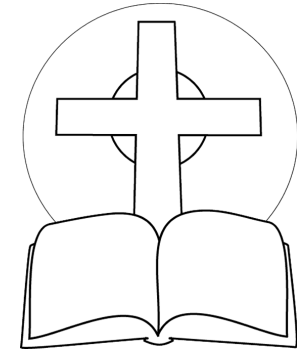
- The future of her Family is now ours.
- Let's continue to make her Proud!





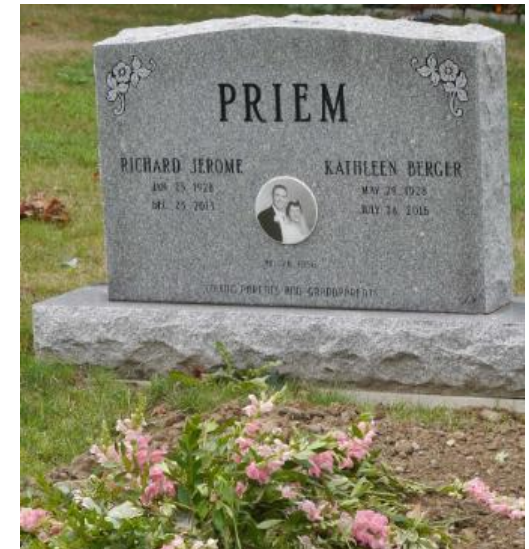
➤ **MOM:**

- I Love You.
- We all Love You.

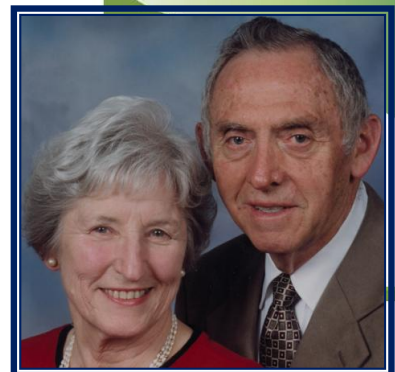


➤ **You Did It.**

- You did it well.
- A Life well lived!



➤ ***REST IN PEACE . . .***





- References
 - [Obituary & Photo Album](#)
 - [Obituary: Spouse](#)
 - [Funeral Program](#) and [Spouse](#)
 - [Eulogy: Spouse](#)
 - [Tribute to Dad \(He was There\)](#)
 - [Tribute to Mom \(She Did It\)](#)
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