Maureen was a strong, independent woman, long before it was socially acceptable for a woman to think and act the way she sometimes did. She was the epitome of perseverance and determination.

In the midst of The Great Depression, while living in Detroit, Emma Selina Boyd (Lina) and Norman Hugh Boyd, welcomed Maureen into the world on April 22, 1931. She was the second of five children in the family, preceded by her sister Gladys and followed by Heather, Brian and Kenneth.

In 1935, Maureen took the first of her two trips aboard the Queen Mary. Her father, hoping for a better life for the family, sailed them back to his homeland of Scotland but it was not meant to be. Norman felt the pressure of the impending war, and in 1937, sailed the family back on the Queen Mary and settled in Detroit.

While growing up and attending Cadillac Elementary and Cooley High School, Maureen was an outstanding athlete, excelling in swimming and softball. She was even asked to join the high school swim team. Being such a strong-willed person, she did not want to have to follow the directions of the coach and give up smoking so, she declined. During her school years, she became friends with Barbara Rauch which led her to meet Richard. One day, when she was about 16, Maureen was standing on her front porch and Richard stopped by to ask if she would be interested in going on a date. She responded that she was already going with someone, but that he should ask her again. A few weeks later, Richard asked again and she accepted. They walked to the Great Lakes movie theater, and there began their 73 year love affair.

Believing that he would not be drafted, Skip proposed and they were married on February 3, 1951. Fate had other plans. While Skip was in the Army during the Korean War, Maureen worked downtown at Meyer Jewelry. Upon his return, they bought their first home on Eastwood in Oak Park where they started their family. As a family, they enjoyed camping around Michigan, their cottage at Duck Lake and their riverboat trip down the Mississippi River. Maureen and Skip eventually sold their cottage to use as a down payment on their forever home in West Bloomfield. In addition to raising their three children: Jeff, Lori and Heather, Maureen was a proud and loving grandmother to her five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren

After staying home for many years to raise her family, Maureen returned to work at various places as a bookkeeper and as a dispatcher for the Visiting Nurses Association. When not working, she was an avid bird watcher which led her to become a member of the Audubon Society. With friends, she traveled to many places to observe birds including Texas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Nebraska, Arizona and Florida. One of her proudest bird-watching experiences was finding an Alaska Redpoll in her own backyard, despite being told it was not possible. Some of her favorite species included hummingbirds, owls, eagles, Evening Grosbeaks, and Baltimore Orioles.

To know Maureen was to love Maureen. She could be blunt and direct but you always knew where you stood and how she truly felt. Despite a few "Oh, shits" and perhaps the occasional PIA reference, you also knew that Maureen loved you.

Like a hummingbird, we aspire to hover and to savor each moment as it passes, embrace all that life has to offer and to celebrate the joy of everyday. The hummingbird's delicate grace reminds us that life is rich, beauty is everywhere, every personal connection has meaning and that laughter is life's sweetest creation.





Maureen Boyd Rauch

April 22, 1931 – November 3, 2019