



## Sophie Karoline Coalwell

September 10, 2021

Sophie Karoline Coalwell was born May 13, 1948, in Vienna, Austria, to Franz Tiefenbock and Adele Vogt. After graduating from high school and with her passion for fashion and style, she continued her education and became a hairstylist and a tailor, making clothing and draperies. When the economy worsened, Sophie moved to West Germany and worked in clothing sales by day and as a waitress in a hotel's restaurant in Kitzingen during the evening and night. It was there, in March 1981, that she met a young Army officer that was just arriving for duty at the tactical missile site near there and fell in love.

On May 29, 1982, Sophie married 1LT Rick L. Coalwell in Dilworth, Minnesota. After returning to Germany to finish Rick's tour of duty there, she enthusiastically made homes for her family everywhere the Army sent them, including Fort Bliss, Texas; Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; Washington, D.C.; and Kwajalein, Republic of the Marshall Islands; always enjoying and treating it as a continuing adventure.

Sophie was always quick to get involved in all of her new communities and was very generous with her time and talents. She always volunteered for anything that helped military families. Sophie worked tirelessly in the Army posts' thrift shops to raise money for troop morale activities and worked fundraisers for her churches, schools, youth groups, and soldiers. She served as a scout leader and helped young military spouses deal with family

separations during military deployments. She also hosted numerous socials welcoming new families to the communities. In short order, everyone seemed to know Sophie. Although she didn't need them, Sophie received several awards for her individual volunteer work. She was most proud when her family was chosen as the Volunteer Family of the Year.

Sophie was very outgoing and needed to meet people, socialize and laugh. She was extremely creative and could do all sorts of crafts from sewing or knitting, to making various original ornaments or jewelry, to her intricate Gobelin pictures, and so much more. Sophie adored decorating the house for every holiday, especially Christmas. She loved to play family board games and cards and do puzzle books. Sophie was a loving, nurturing and supportive wife, mother and grandmother who was proud of and loved her family dearly and cherished the time she had with them and her friends.

Sophie lost her courageous eight-year fight with cancer, which was exacerbated by her 17-year battle with COPD. She passed away peacefully while under comfort care with her husband at her side on Friday, September 10, 2021 at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, at the age of 73.

Sophie is survived by her husband, Rick, Dumfries, VA; a son, Rick II, Dumfries; a grandson, Christopher, Dumfries; a sister, Inge Parragh, Vienna, Austria; a mother-in-law, Patricia Coalwell, Dilworth, MN; two brothers-in-law, Mark (Jeanne) Coalwell, Maple Grove, MN, and Keith (Michelle) Coalwell, Dilworth; and many cousins, nephews and nieces.

Sophie was preceded in death by her parents; her father-in-law, Rolland Coalwell; and a brother-in-law Hansi Parragh.

Funeral Service for Sophie will be Saturday, September 25, 2021, at 11:00 AM, with visitation one hour prior at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 15695

Blackburn Road, Woodbridge, VA 22191. The service will be livestreamed at <https://youtu.be/Ew-Vu6IPeB0>. Tributes to Sophie can be left on the Miller Funeral Home webpage at: [www.millerfuneralhome.net](http://www.millerfuneralhome.net). Her interment at Arlington National Cemetery and a memorial service in Minnesota will occur at a later date in accordance with the current pandemic restrictions. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to the American Cancer Society or the American Lung Association in Sophie's name.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP **25**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
15695 Blackburn Road  
Woodbridge, VA 22191

## Funeral Service

SEP **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
15695 Blackburn Road  
Woodbridge, VA 22191

# Tribute Wall

DC

“ *Coalwell Family,*

*Condolences to your family. I saw this online and I didn't know Sophie passed away or had cancer. She was a good neighbor to me and my 2 sons and daughter. Sophie was devoted to her son, grandson and husband. She a good wife and mother and grandmother and neighbor. She was artistic and creative always making everything beautiful. Sophie was my friend after moving to Virginia in 1996 for years as a neighbor. I'm happy she's at peace, out of pain and at rest. I know she's missed very much.*

*Sincerely,*

*Deborah Radlick & Family*



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**Deborah Cantwil-Radlick** - January 14, 2023 at 03:59 PM



“ *Sophie Karoline Coalwell*

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January 12, 2023 at 12:00 PM

DM

“ *Fun to be around! Sorry we did not know sooner. She introduced us to the card game Shanghai which we play as a family at every opportunity. Rest well. Dave and Marina Moeller*

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**Dave Moeller** - September 13, 2022 at 09:20 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Sophie Karoline Coalwell.*



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September 24, 2021 at 10:56 AM



“ *I'm so sorry for your loss. She was a great and beautiful woman, I wish I could have had more time to get to know her. May she find peace. Never forget what she wanted for you.*

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**Natasha Jones** - September 22, 2021 at 05:55 PM



*So sorry for your loss of your beautiful Sophie. Words can not express enough to ease your pain. Prayers for you Rick, Rick II, Christopher, your Mom Pat and all the Coalwell family. Please know I am thinking of you and all your friends back home her care so much for you now and always, and during this really hard time of loss.*  
*Connie Lundgren*

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**Connie Lundgren** - September 25, 2021 at 12:47 AM