

OBITUARY
Linda Steinhauser Walcowich
October 20, 1942 – March 3, 2025



Linda Steinhauser Walcowich passed away peacefully on March 3, 2025 in Dripping Springs, Texas. Linda was 82 years old and was surrounded by family and friends as she went up the Golden Stairs after a graceful journey with dementia.

Linda was born in Austin, Texas and was the daughter of Jack Malcom Steinhauser and Ruth “Cissy” Steinhauser. She graduated from Austin High School and attended the University of Texas at Austin where she was a member of the Kappa Alpha Theta sorority. Linda was co-chair of the first Austin Junior League Christmas Affair and was on the committee for the very first Austin Junior League cookbook. Linda was a trailblazer in her long career in catering, restaurants and event planning. She had a humble beginning with business partner, Cecelia Cook, where the two women began Mother Hubbard Catering. Linda and Cecelia worked out of their homes and orchestrated many wonderful parties and events. Linda later served in management roles for the Westwood Country Club, Tarry House, the Capital Club, and the Austin Country Club.

In 1971, Linda collaborated with her former husband, Bud Bates, to open a New Orleans-inspired seafood restaurant, the Capitol Oyster Company (The Oyster Bar). The Oyster Bar became a favorite hangout which featured fresh oysters from Louisiana and was just steps away from the Texas State Capitol. In 1973, Linda and Bud joined with Mike Young to open Mike and Charlies, a favorite neighborhood restaurant and bar. Later, the couple opened the Mike and Charlies Emporium, a boutique takeout restaurant and bakery. The couple also had other restaurant and bar endeavors in Ricco’s Italian (with brother, Rick Bates), and Casablanca and the Blue Parrot. Linda played a pivotal role in each restaurant and bar through her exhaustive recipe testing and menu development that began in her family’s home kitchen on a vintage Wolf commercial stove.

In 1986, Linda married Bob Walcovich and moved to a charming farmhouse in Brenham, Texas. Linda opened a specialty gift shop and wedding planning service, Linda and Company.

In the early 2000's, Linda and Bob made a new home in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. They enjoyed the colonial beauty and vibrant American expatriate community in San Miguel and made life-long friendships. Linda also began a new wedding and event-planning business, Celebrations San Miguel. In San Miguel, Linda orchestrated extraordinary destination weddings and events that gave homage to her adopted Mexican home. While in Mexico, Linda's husband Bob passed away from a long struggle with Alzheimer's Disease. In 2013, Linda married Robert Crosby, and they continued a full life in San Miguel. They moved back to Texas in October 2019 and made their home in Dripping Springs, Texas.

Linda has been surrounded by loving family including her husband, Robert Crosby, her daughters, Laura Field Peterson, Anne Elizabeth (Betsy) Cauley (Steve Cauley) and Mary Ellen Van Marter (Alan Van Marter). She leaves behind her beloved stepchildren, Rob Crosby (Cindy Crosby), Kelly Miller and Anne Bates Camden (Cary). Linda is cherished by her sisters, Anne Steinhauser Bloomquist (John) and Susan Steinhauser Thompson (Hardy). Linda was proud of her eight wonderful grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Linda received extraordinary in-home care in her final months from her husband, Robert Crosby and step-daughter, Kelly Miller, which was an immeasurable gift to Linda and her entire family.

A memorial service and celebration of Linda's life will be held at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church on Wednesday, April 9th, 2025 at 10:00am. The family would like to thank the incredible hospice caregivers who made the end of Linda's life peaceful and comfortable. In lieu of flowers, the family welcomes donations to Hospice Austin (<https://www.hospiceaustin.org>) or The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center (development@wildflower.org). Linda's family is grateful to God for her life that was vibrant and well-lived. There will never be a light this bright.