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We lost Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum, an honorary citizen of the city of Šiauliai

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Sad news came from across the Atlantic, after a long and serious illness, the true ambassador of our city, a sincere friend of Šiauliai and an Honorary Citizen, Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum, has left Annapil.

Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum, the initiator of the US city of Omaha and Šiauliai friendship and its long-term nurturer, began a difficult phase of the fight against cancer in 2018. in August. At the beginning of 2021, the Honorary Citizen was happy that she managed to overcome the oncological disease, but soon after, other serious health complications followed, and at the beginning of this year, the cancer returned in an incurable form.

Brangūs artimieji ir draugai,
Ši mano kelionės dalis, mano kova su vėžio liga, prasidėjo 2018 m. rugpjūčio mėn., kai man buvo diagnozuota ne Hodžkino limfoma. Per ateinančius 2.5 metų išgyvenau tris agresyvius chemoterapijos kursus, net kai COVID pandemija užvaldė mus visus. 2020-ųjų pabaigoje buvo neaišku, ar išgyvensiu nuo vėžio. Nuostabi ir stebina naujiena 2021 m. sausio mėn. – mano vėžys buvo remisijos stadijoje! Tačiau mano slaugymo kelyje būtų iššūkių. Kartu su kitomis sudėtingomis sveikatos būklėmis, pastaruosius 2+ metus praleidau kovodama su agresyvia CMV viruso infekcija, kai mano imuninė sistema buvo labai pažeista dėl ankstesnių chemoterapijų. Tačiau su savo šeimos – Dalios ir Gedimino – meilės rūpesčiu, ištvėriau ir vėl mėgavausi gyvenimo kokybe. Esu amžinai dėkinga už atsidavusią savo šeimos meilę. Jie buvo nuostabūs atsidavę globėjai kiekvieną dieną! Visą antrąjį 2022 m. pusmetį mano akyse išplito CMV viruso infekcija. Iki metų pabaigos tapau visiškai akla. Visai neseniai mano bendra sveikatos būklė pablogėjo. Praėjusio mėnesio pabaigoje sužinojome, kad vėžys metastizavo į kitas mano kūno dalis ir kad ši nauja diagnozė nėra gydoma. Ir praėjusią savaitę pradėjau hospiso globos kelionę savo namuose. Mano kelionė šioje žemėje baigsis per ateinančias kelias savaites / mėnesius. Labai vertinu visas jūsų mylinčias mintis, geriausius linkėjimus ir maldas – už mane ir mano šeimą. Aš myliu jus visus! ❤️



Nellie Sudavicius family members Dalia and Gediminas Murauskai informed that Nellie left this world on Monday of this week.

"Our NIJOLĖ started her heavenly journey yesterday evening, Monday, May 8, at 8:15 p.m.," it was announced on the social network account.

Due to the death of the Honorary Citizen, Šiauliai City Mayor Artūras Visockas expresses his condolences to Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum's family, relatives and the entire Lithuanian community of Omaha.

"Part of Nellie's heart was in Šiauliai, it is difficult to measure how much care and protection she put into joint cooperation projects between our cities and universities, visits by art groups. We will always be grateful for the fact that she raised the friendship of the cities to the next level", said Artūras Visockas.



Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum was awarded the title of honorary citizen of the city of Šiauliai in 2008.



Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum was born in 1945. August 27 In Germany, in a Lithuanian family. Later, the Sudavičius family moved to America.

in 1963 she graduated from the University of Omaha (USA) with a bachelor's degree in fine arts. She worked in several companies in the state of Nebraska in creative work, led work teams, developed business, while at the same time having a wide circle of social interests related to her country of origin - Lithuania.



Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum is the author of the idea of Omaha's friendship with Šiauliai. Being an active chairman of Omaha's Lithuanian community and understanding the importance of communication with compatriots, Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum very willingly participated in the activities of Omaha's city-partner association and tried to establish long-term relations with Lithuania. Thanks to her initiative and great efforts, in 1994 the first communication bridge between the cities of Šiauliai and Omaha was built, and in 1996 May 17 A cooperation agreement between these two cities was signed in Šiauliai. During the 12-year period (1996–2008), a lot of work was done to strengthen cooperation and friendship between Omaha and Šiauliai: joint work agreements between Šiauliai and the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), Šiauliai County Hospital, other city institutions and relevant partners in Omaha were signed. Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum contributed a lot to the development of cooperation between the universities of both countries. She constantly took care of Šiauliai University

students and teachers, art groups who came to UNO under academic and cultural exchange programs, organized and coordinated their accommodation. Since 1997 with the help of Nellie Sudavičius MacCallum, Šiauliai City Children's Ensemble 'Ro-ko-ko', pianist Rimantas Vingras, musician and singer Virgis Stakėnas, Šiauliai University art collectives 'Saulė', 'Studium', 'Dagilis', Kuršėnai L 'Globus' student theater of Ivinskis Gymnasium and other artists. Thanks to her, an American Indian ensemble visited and performed in Šiauliai. She constantly took care of Šiauliai University students and teachers, art groups who came to UNO according to academic and cultural exchange programs, organized and coordinated their accommodation. Since 1997 with the help of Nellie Sudavičius MacCallum, Šiauliai City Children's Ensemble 'Ro-ko-ko', pianist Rimantas Vingras, musician and singer Virgis Stakėnas, Šiauliai University art collectives 'Saulė', 'Studium', 'Dagilis', Kuršėnai L 'Globus' student theater of Ivinskis Gymnasium and other artists. Thanks to her, an American Indian ensemble visited and performed in Šiauliai. She constantly took care of Šiauliai University students and teachers, art groups who came to UNO according to academic and cultural exchange programs, organized and coordinated their accommodation. Since 1997 with the help of Nellie Sudavičius MacCallum, Šiauliai City Children's Ensemble 'Ro-ko-ko', pianist Rimantas Vingras, musician and singer Virgis Stakėnas, Šiauliai University art collectives 'Saulė', 'Studium', 'Dagilis', Kuršėnai L 'Globus' student theater of Ivinskis Gymnasium and other artists. Thanks to her, an American Indian ensemble visited and performed in Šiauliai. with the help of Nellie Sudavičius MacCallum, Šiauliai City Children's Ensemble 'Ro-ko-ko', pianist Rimantas Vingras, musician and singer Virgis Stakėnas, Šiauliai University art collectives 'Saulė', 'Studium', 'Dagilis', Kuršėnai L 'Globus' student theater of Ivinskis Gymnasium and other artists. Thanks to her, an American Indian ensemble visited and performed in Šiauliai. with the help of Nellie Sudavičius MacCallum, Šiauliai City Children's Ensemble 'Ro-ko-ko', pianist Rimantas Vingras, musician and singer Virgis Stakėnas, Šiauliai University art collectives 'Saulė', 'Studium', 'Dagilis', Kuršėnai L 'Globus' student theater of Ivinskis Gymnasium and other artists. Thanks to her, an American Indian ensemble visited and performed in Šiauliai.

Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum's perseverance, thoroughness, conscientiousness, and pursuit of a set goal helped to bring together people of different nations for a common goal - to get to know each other better, to study and work creatively, to solve emerging problems through cultural, educational, business and self-government exchange projects. Unfading enthusiasm and love for Lithuania encouraged her to actively participate in the activities of the Lithuanian community and to promote the name of Lithuania and the city of Šiauliai in the world.



Photos of Šiauliai City Municipality and Nellie Sudavicius MacCallum's personal archive

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