



Marilyn Ross Wilson

April 23, 1928 - December 18, 2019

Marilyn Ross Wilson, 91, died on December 18, 2019. She was a force of nature with a keen independence and an uncanny sense of empathy. She loved peoples' stories and—true to her Irish roots—she loved talking, telling tales that mixed her everyday kindnesses with a touch of ornery mischief. Marilyn was born on April 22 or 23 (debated to this day, depending on whether her mother or her birth certificate knew best) in 1928. She spent her youth in Tallula, Illinois, the daughter of John and Juanita Ross, and the third of four children. She graduated from Tallula Community High School in 1945, and had a lifetime love of her hometown. She married Harry Edmund Wilson of Petersburg, Illinois on May 14, 1949 at the Tallula Christian Church. They celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary prior to Harry's death on September 17, 2014. Marilyn and Harry built their own home with lots of help from the "hilltop neighborhood" they treasured for 70 years.

Marilyn is survived by her daughter Holly Wilson Crowl and her husband Matthew Charles Crowl of Chicago, Illinois, two grandchildren, Taylor Wilson Crowl and Logan Matthew Crowl, and her sister, Bea Taylor. She is also survived by many adoring nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, brother, John "Jack" Ross, and her sister, Norma Jean Conkey, and her niece, Cynthia Conkey Hayes.

Marilyn's life was long, rich, and filled with adventure; she always enjoyed

getting dressed up and being “on the go.” Most of her adult life was spent as one of the faces of Petersburg. She started off working at Sangamon Electric, then the Petersburg Public Library, and finally the Petersburg Water Department, where the two Marilyn’s (Schafer and Wilson) knew all the comings and goings of the town. Along with traveling to Chicago to visit her daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren, she loved sitting in her yard watching the rich life of Petersburg with neighbors and friends. And, she loved instigating a neighborhood wiener roast and playing bridge for over 40 years with the best bridge group.

The last three years of Marilyn’s life was cared for extraordinarily by Dr. Katherine Thompson and Dr. Erin Zahradnik of Chicago, Pastor Laura and Pastor Lin, and the wonderful staff and friends at Montgomery Place Retirement Community in Chicago. Moving at 88 was not easy, but Marilyn created a community—and a party—wherever she went.

Visitation for Marilyn will be held Thursday, December 26, from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm (with food provided) at the Petersburg United Methodist Church, followed by a funeral service at 1:00 pm with Pastor Rick Pierce officiating. Burial will follow immediately at Oakland Cemetery. Following interment, a celebration of life gathering will be held at Three Pines, 510 West Sheridan Road.

Memorial contributions can be made to Alliance Bank in MEMORY OF MARILYN WILSON to be used for future community projects in her name for her beloved childhood town of Tallula and her adopted town of Petersburg.

Online condolences may be left at www.hurleyfh.com.

The Hurley Funeral Home of Petersburg is assisting the Wilson family with arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **26.** 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM (CT)

Petersburg United Methodist Church
221 W. Jackson
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7689

Funeral

DEC **26.** 1:00 PM (CT)

Petersburg United Methodist Church
221 W. Jackson
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-7689

Tribute Wall



“ *Marilyn Ross Wilson*

October 12, 2022 at 03:07 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of my Aunt Marilyn's passing...I have such happy and wonderful memories of her & my Uncle Harry...she was always had a smile on her face and could make you laugh...when she & my Mom got together there was no stopping the 2 of them (& my Dad & Uncle never knew what they were up to)...they are all together now and I bet they are having one heck of a time together...Holly & Matt, Taylor & Logan I will keep you all in my prayers..I send you lots of hugs and much love...R.I.P. my dear sweet Aunt & thank you for all the wonderful memories that I cherish forever...*

Kathy Wilson Phillips - December 24, 2019 at 01:16 PM



“ *So sorry to hear of your mother's passing. She'll be missed I know.*

Dave and Becky Wood - December 23, 2019 at 01:33 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marilyn Ross Wilson.*



December 23, 2019 at 11:25 AM

MS

“ Holly, Matt and family: We send you hugs and wonderful memories of your Mom..Two memories that pop into our heads thinking of your Mom--years ago we were visiting your Dad at STJ and your Mom's stories that day--we laughed and cried together! The other on a cold snowy night in January, Mary's Mom passed away in Springfield--and who showed up at the wake? You are right--Marilyn! What a lady and what memories--see you later this week--JD and Mary

Mary Stewart - December 23, 2019 at 09:57 AM

RG

“ We will always treasure our memories of Marilyn -- her huge smile, her warmth, graciousness and independent spirit -- here at Montgomery Place. It has been a privilege and pleasure to get to know her along with her lovely family.

Rev. Laura Gottardi-Littell - December 22, 2019 at 06:47 PM

CB

“ My sympathy to the family. I was fortunate to meet Marilyn and Harry while operating George Warburton's. It was always a joy to visit with them.

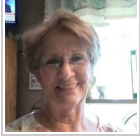
Crystal Brauer

Crystal S Brauer - December 22, 2019 at 11:27 AM

LM

“ We are so very sorry to hear of Marilyn's passing. Our prayer go out to Holly and her family. I will never forget meeting Marilyn at her mother;s home in Tallula and playing there with Holly when we were little. Marilyn reminded me of her mother, Juanita, a lot.

Linda Kording McCombs - December 21, 2019 at 06:02 PM



“ I'm so sorry for the loss of Marilyn, Holly. My sisters and I use to walk past your house on the hill almost every day walking to school...60's. One day about 5 or 6 years ago, I was at the cemetary arranging flowers in mom and dad's headstone vase (Bill and Pat Price) and she stopped by in her car and we talked about old times, our neighbors back then, etc. Long life but never seems long enough for those that love them.



Deborah Price-Schrowang - December 20, 2019 at 02:25 PM

BT

“ Bea T. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Marilyn Ross Wilson.



Bea T. - December 20, 2019 at 12:16 PM

TD

“ The Irwin's, Ann, Tim, Sallee, Dan purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Marilyn Ross Wilson.



The Irwin's, Ann, Tim, Sallee, Dan - December 20, 2019 at 09:50 AM