



Marilyn June Andersen

June 23, 1930 - September 5, 2020

Passing away peacefully in the early morning hours of Saturday, September 5th, was a woman of great spirit and strength whose legacy will not soon be forgotten.

Marilyn June Andersen was born on June 23, 1930 in Strawberry Point, Iowa. She was the daughter of Magdalena Weger and Martin Baumgartner. Despite being the youngest of 5 children, she took on a caregiving role at an early age, cooking and cleaning for herself and much older parents. It was this independent, selfless attitude she carried with her throughout her life.

At age 16, she met a young medical student, the younger brother of their town doctor, and they quickly developed a romance. On June 23, 1949, her nineteenth birthday, she was married to Dr. Kenneth Nels Andersen. After Kenneth finished his residency, they moved to Center Point, Iowa, where they lived for their entire lives. They were happily married nearly 66 years until Kenneth passed away in 2015.

Marilyn attended the University of Iowa College of Nursing and worked as a nurse for her husband as they started a family. When her youngest started kindergarten, Marilyn enrolled at Coe College where she eventually earned her B.A. in German and English literature. She then went on to earn a Master of Arts in literature from the University of Iowa. Many of her dear friends in life were her classmates and college professors.

If you knew Marilyn Andersen, you knew her laugh. You knew her joyful spirit and her spunk as well as her penchant for everything leopard-print. You also knew that she had an unbridled love for all of her family members. You could barely make out any wallpaper behind all of the pictures of family members in her kitchen where she met with family and friends over lunch and coffee, her laugh filling the room.

Marilyn was a lover of all animals but had a special place in her heart for cats, which she treated as family members. She also took care to feed all outdoor stray cats and wildlife in her backyard and was a lifelong donor to many animal rescue organizations.

However, her love for others extended beyond her family and her furry friends. Along with her husband Kenneth, Marilyn was an encouraging role model for all of those in the Center Point community. Dedicated to improving their community, Marilyn and her husband gave generously of their time and resources to many local organizations, including the Center Point Lions Club, the Center Point Ambulance Service, and Fross Park, where they paid for two pavilions. After Kenneth's death, Marilyn donated to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail to help pave it the rest of the way to Center Point, in honor of her husband who was a frequent user of the nature trail. In the last year of her life, Marilyn turned her attention to donating to the Center Point Fire Department Capital Campaign for a new fire station. She was a longtime dedicated member of the Linn County Foster Care Review Board and the Center Point Library Board. She also served on the city council in Center Point for many year and serves as Mayor pro term.

Because Marilyn and her husband valued education so highly, they were proud to establish the Kenneth and Marilyn Andersen Library in Center Point and the Andersen Family Scholarship for graduating seniors of Center Point-Urbana High School. She also donated generously to the CPU School for Fine Arts and science programs.

Surviving to honor her life and legacy are her daughter, Holly Andersen and husband Pat Grady of Cedar Rapids; daughter, Christa Andersen and husband Terry Potter, PhD, of Ames; son, Philip Andersen, DDS and wife DeEtta, PhD, of Center Point; son, Kenneth Andersen, MD, and wife Elizabeth of Urbandale; as well as many "adopted" sons and daughters. Her grandchildren are Benjamin Bach and wife Andrea and their children Christian and Sebastian of Minneapolis; Andrew Bach and fiancée Sarah Herrick of Los Angeles; Nathan Potter and wife Jennifer and their children Keira, Kaden, and Kelsey of Colorado; Melinda Potter and husband Sebastian Sprague of Pennsylvania; Lorick Andersen, MD, Eva Andersen, Alex Andersen and fiancée Adalynn Shaw, all in Iowa; and Natasha and Dane Andersen of Urbandale.

The family would like to say a special thank you to Dawn Farmer, Marilyn's niece, for always being there for Marilyn in her final years.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be directed to the Center Point Fire Department Capital Campaign for a new station, Critter Crusaders of Cedar Rapids, or the Cedar Valley Humane Society.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring of 2021. Murdoch Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Center Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

Comments



“ Just heard about your Mom Holly ... my deepest Sympathy for your family

michael haars - September 26, 2020 at 10:23 AM



“ Remember Marilyn from working at T & R Foods, she was a wonderful customer as well as a friend. Made many cakes for her special occasions and she was very easily pleased. Remember the socks that she gave all of us at Valentine's Day, Christmas, etc. She will be missed. Our sympathy to all the family.
Troy & Margaret Krug

Margaret Krug - September 20, 2020 at 03:00 PM



“ Marilyn and her dear husband were blessings to their communities and their family. Dr. Ken was devoted to Free Health Clinic in Cedar Rapids, and Marilyn his staunch supporter. A wonderful family. Love to Holly and all. Pat Martin

Pat Martin - September 12, 2020 at 12:40 PM



“ Prayers of comfort to the family. I will always remember Marilyn's laugh and how she always took the time to ask about my life and she always shared a laugh- she had an amazing laugh!

kate VanBerkum - September 10, 2020 at 09:04 PM



“ It was a privilege to know Marilyn. She will be dearly missed
Gary and Carol Dundee

Carol Dundee - September 10, 2020 at 01:40 PM



“ To entire Andersen Family: I have fond memories of visiting with Marilyn when I worked in Target's greeting card department. Marilyn will always be within your heart and the many others that loved her and as close as a beautiful memory. May you find comfort in the fond memories of your mother that never fade away. She will be missed but not nearly as much as she will be remembered.

Kenny & Phyllis Jones - September 10, 2020 at 01:28 PM



“ Amy Barrette lit a candle in memory of Marilyn June Andersen



Amy Barrette - September 09, 2020 at 08:31 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Amy Barrette - September 09, 2020 at 08:31 AM



“ Marilyn was a delightful woman and I always enjoyed my visits with her. She had a very unique and positive view of the world and I gladly got wrapped up in her stories. I know she loved her family very much and was a huge part of her world. I will miss her greatly. I know all the Caregivers at Home Insead loved her as well. She will be missed by all.

Michelle Brown - September 08, 2020 at 12:07 PM