



Margaret K. Burton

October 12, 1923 - December 5, 2020

Margaret Burton, 97, of Niagara, Wisconsin, left this life on December 5, 2020. She lived a long and full life, enjoying travel, teaching, sports bird-watching, gardening and, especially, family. She was an advocate for the developmentally disabled and a supporter of public libraries.

She will be remembered by all who knew her as a wonderful role model, a devoted wife and mother, but also a woman who believed in and advocated passionately for schools, libraries and people with disabilities. She will also be remembered for her easy smile and acts of kindness to friends, neighbors and family.

Margaret was born in Appleton, Wisconsin on October 12, 1923 to Raymond “Doc” and Lenore (Woelz) Lally. Her early years in Appleton were spent with a large and loving family—parents, siblings and many cousins. She graduated from Appleton High School, where she met her future husband and the love of her life, William “Bill” Burton.

With an interest in history and art, she traveled to Europe and throughout the United States. A special time was a trip to Ireland with husband Bill, where they explored the land of her ancestors.

Margaret earned a degree from Milwaukee-Downer College and began a career as a teacher, initially with kindergarteners in Appleton, whom she

motivated with book readings and piano playing. Bill, also a teacher, began a courtship, and the two married on April 19, 1952.

Margaret put a hold on her teaching career to raise six children; she returned to teaching when they were grown. Both she and Bill, a military veteran who had a career in public school administration, contributed greatly to education and the many students whose lives they positively impacted, welcoming many into their home over the years.

The family resided first in Appleton, then moved to Grafton, Wisconsin, where Bill became high school principal and then superintendent of the public school system. They later moved to Wausau, Wisconsin and Portage, Indiana before settling in Niagara, where both Bill and Margaret continued to work in public schools into retirement. Bill, the love of her life, died in 2001.

Throughout her retirement, Margaret enjoyed the care and attention offered by her children and friends after Bill's death. She also received exceptional care during her last years from her youngest son, Bob, and his wife, Rhonda, and later at Maryhill Manor in Niagara.

Margaret was an experienced gardener and prided herself on flower beds and planters in every house in which she lived. She was also an expert birdwatcher, and taught her children about the various species that made visits to her feeders and trees. She was also a voracious reader who especially enjoyed keeping current through the local newspaper and a variety of magazines. And—boy, oh boy—was she a sports fan! She loved Notre Dame and the Packers most of all, and could often be heard above the voices of others when a call didn't go the way she thought it should.

And in the true Irish tradition, she was known to toast with a small glass of whiskey on more than a few special occasions. And during her younger married years, her ladies' bridge parties were among the top social events of any season.

Margaret was always willing to give her time and energy to a cause and to

provide guidance and advice, especially to her children, their spouses and her grandchildren, all of whom she loved greatly. Many of them remember fondly the one-on-one chats with her, perhaps over a cup of coffee in the morning or while sitting on the porch in the afternoon.

Margaret is survived by six children, Tom (Tracy), John (Kristin), Betsy, Kathy (Brad), Bob (Rhonda) and Mary; 10 grandchildren, Jon Chartier, Leigh Collins, Katie Huempfner, Megan Biggs, Drew Huempfner, Tara Patterson, Molly Groeschi, Tahlia Burton, Alayna Mines and Brianna Burton; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; five siblings, Bob, Jack, Betty, Ann and Mary Ellen; and numerous cousins and aunts and uncles.

Margaret, a devout Catholic who served as a Eucharistic minister and in the Christian Mothers group, will be buried next to Bill in Appleton in a private ceremony.

Visitation will be held on Saturday, June 19, from 9:00 to 11:00 am at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Niagara. A Memorial Mass will follow at 11:00 am at the church. Fr. Matt Settle will officiate.

Memorials can be made to Maryhill Manor, 501 Madison Ave., Niagara, WI 54151, for its religious program.

Happily, Margaret has now joined Bill, and they will no doubt be carrying on the family traditions and harmonizing on their song, "My Evaline."

Erickson-Rochon & Nash Funeral Home in Iron Mountain, Michigan will be in charge of funeral arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 19. 9:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony Catholic Church
1432 River St.
Niagara, WI 54151

Memorial Mass

JUN 19. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Anthony Catholic Church
1432 River St.
Niagara, WI 54151

Tribute Wall



“ *Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Margaret K. Burton.*



June 17, 2021 at 01:09 PM



“ *My first day of school was when I was four years old in morning kindergarten at Washington School in Appleton ... and my teacher was Miss Lally. In hindsight she had a great influence on me ... books were important to her and became important to me. I suspect my eventual career choice of becoming a teacher was partly due to her.*

I never had a chance to thank her ... I wish I did.

Richard Collins - December 20, 2020 at 11:53 AM



“ *My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during such a difficult time. It is so hard to lose your Mom at any age especially such a wonderful one.*

I have such wonderful memories of Staying at your house when I was about ten. Your Mom was so kind and patient with us. We had so much fun that week.

I know my Mom thought so much of her big sister and shared many stories with us about how Aunt Margaret showed her off and was so good to her. How lucky we all are to have had her in our lives.

Love you all,

Mary(Hopfensperger) Schussman

Mary Schussman - December 12, 2020 at 01:11 PM

CE

“ My condolences to the entire Burton family as you deal with the loss of one of the most wonderful, thoughtful, gracious individuals I ever had the pleasure of meeting and knowing, your mother. It has been far too long since I have been in the Iron Mountain area but to this day, I still cherish the memories I have of sitting at your parents table, sharing a meal with Bill and Margaret and of course the rest of family before a game. Then there was the game, what memories. There are just not enough lines one could make in this type of post that truly shows how special Margaret was. I am very sure that Bill was there when Margaret showed up in Heaven, probably just got done with dishes and ready to go for a walk. I am pretty sure each of you know how much your mother was loved and respected by so many people. There is no doubt that your mother is an angel who is now back home.

Charles J Ellis - December 11, 2020 at 07:16 PM

 Debbie Gursky

“ Such nice, kind people. I got to know them through remodeling their kitchen years ago and have never forgotten them.

Debbie Gursky - December 11, 2020 at 10:55 AM

DT

“ I remember Margaret and Bill when they were teachers in Pembine. 2 of the sweetest people I knew, Rest in peace.

Dianne Plemel Thull - December 10, 2020 at 08:58 PM

LR

“ *Margaret and Bill were my mother’s neighbors They enjoyed their time together and a friendship followed. Many time were spent on my mother’s deck sharing a cup of coffee or something stronger with Bill as the bartender. Their friendship was everlasting. I’m sure they we renew their friendship in heaven! RIP dear Margaret!!!*

Linda Rostagno - December 10, 2020 at 03:34 PM