



## Marjorie Elizabeth Macy Hattin

June 1, 1930 - May 12, 2018

BLOOMINGTON — Marjorie Elizabeth Macy Hattin, beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, passed away Saturday, May 12, 2018 at Autumn Hills Alzheimer's Special Care Center.

Marjorie, the daughter of Ruth Oma Hazelton Macy and Thomas White Macy, was born in 1930 in Cohasset, Massachusetts, and grew up there, developing a life-long passion for the ocean and sandy beaches. She was active in Girl Scouts, and in high school lettered in field hockey. She met her future husband, Donald E. (Don) Hattin, during a meeting of the church youth group, Christian Endeavor, and their 71-year fairy-tale love affair began with a first date when Margie was 15 years old. Margie was the love of Don's life, and he always referred to her as the "most beautiful girl in the world."

Following graduation from Scituate High School in 1948, Marjorie trained as a secretary, and commuted by steam train into Boston where she worked as a secretary while Don, by then her fiancé, was attending the University of Massachusetts. While they were apart they wrote dozens of charming love letters to each other. Following Don's graduation, they were married on July 15, 1950 in Scituate, Massachusetts.

Shortly after their marriage, they moved to Lawrence, Kansas, so Don could pursue a PhD in Geology at the University of Kansas. Margie was thrilled when she became the secretary to the KU head football coach. As Don completed his PhD, their first child, Sandy, was born.

After being awarded his PhD, Don accepted a faculty position in Geology at Indiana University, and the young family moved to Bloomington in the summer of 1954. Their son Ron was born in New Hampshire in 1956 where Don was stationed during his service in the US Air Force. They returned to Bloomington and Indiana University in 1957 and in 1959 their third child, Donna, was born.

Marjorie's passion was her family and husband, and she supported them with love and creativity. She sewed clothing for herself and the girls, did needle point and cross stitch projects to decorate their home, and with Don's assistance, wove several room-sized braided-wool rugs still treasured by her family. She also sold World Book Encyclopedias to supplement the family income. Forever after, Marjorie referred to the "mad money" she used for indulgent gifts to her children as being funded with "World Book money!" The

family loved camping, and Marge helped plan and organize numerous family camping trips. Traveling with the car all loaded with kids, cat, and the family canoe on top, they eventually traveled to all 48 contiguous states.

Marge loved tailgating and hosting football parties. Famous for her “green thumb,” gardening was also a favorite pastime. She helped maintain the large family garden and each summer she made grape and raspberry jelly, her famous gazpacho, and incredible cherry pies. She also planted flower gardens and grew award-winning dahlias. She also loved birds and lovingly maintained numerous bird feeders outside her kitchen window. Marge was Don’s indefatigable companion, serving as his behind the scenes “support team” for his regular Geology field trips to rock outcrops in Kansas, Colorado, or on the reefs of the Florida Keys and the Bahamas. She was always the one looking out for the welfare of the students on these trips, reminding the enthusiastic professor as night fell, “Don, it’s time to call it quits!”

Marge loved to visit New England every summer, which she always considered “home.” Cape Cod, Nantucket, and their home town of Scituate were favorite places to visit, where they remained in touch with family and lifelong childhood friends. Don and Margie traveled internationally as well, including a 9-month sabbatical with the family in England in 1969, and a 1985 visiting professorship in East Germany where they lived for a month, prior to the fall of the Berlin Wall. Their frequent travels took them to over 20 countries, and as recently as 2014 they traveled to both the Panama Canal and Denali National Park. Most of all, Marge was a true patriot; she loved red white and blue, the American flag, and following her overseas travels, she loved coming home to the good ol’ USA.

Margie found numerous ways to volunteer in the community. She was a Brownie and Girl Scout leader for her two daughters. As a volunteer “Pink Lady,” she enjoyed reading to patients at Bloomington Hospital, and she was active in the University Women’s Club and Tri Kappa service sorority. She also volunteered for many years with the Bloomington Red Cross Blood Drive and sorting books for their annual book fair.

Marjorie was a proud descendant of Thomas Macy, one of the nine founding families of Nantucket Island. She was also a descendent of Mayflower pilgrim Degory Priest and was a member of the Indiana Mayflower Society.

Marge had a wonderful smile and an infectious laugh. Family was the core of Margie’s existence, and she valued family get togethers above all else. She was even willing to take up skiing after the age of 65 to keep up with the gang!

Marjorie was preceded in death by her husband, Donald E. Hattin, professor emeritus of Geology at IU, parents, Ruth and Thomas Macy, sister Carolyn Macy Machurek, and brother Thomas Macy Jr. She is survived by her children, Sandra H. Belth (Jeff), Ronald S. Hattin (Vicki), Donna J. Hattin (Ric Rawlins), Grandchildren Paul Whitney Swain III, (Naomi), Alan M. Belth, Devin LaMarche (Matt) and Great Grandchildren Sophia LaMarche, Allison LaMarche, Benjamin LaMarche, and Adara Swain.

The family is grateful for the loving care Margie received from the caregivers with Home Instead Senior Care and by the staff at the Autumn Hills Alzheimer's Special Care Center during her stay there.

A memorial celebration of Marge's life will be held on Saturday, June 2nd at 11:00 am at the First United Church, 2420 East Third Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association ([alz.org](http://alz.org)), the Nantucket Historical Association ([nha.org](http://nha.org)), or My Sisters Closet, Bloomington ([sisterscloset.org](http://sisterscloset.org))

You are invited to share a memory or leave an online condolence to the family at [www.allencares.com](http://www.allencares.com)



# Comments

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“ Marge was one of a kind. I did field work with Don Hattin for 2 summers in Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico. We also did two trips to the Bahamas. Don and and i did the field work but Marge did everything else. She moved into motels, planned meals, arranged logistics, and had gin and tonics ready in rhe evening.. i looked forward to seeing her every day. Marge was fun, patient, fiesty, and a joy to be around. I'll miss her and Don and think about them for the rest of my life. I'm comforted in knowing they're together again! God bless both of them!

**Alan Laferriere** - June 06, 2018 at 11:25 PM

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“ 8 files added to the album Pictures with Grandson, Whitney



**Whitney Swain** - May 23, 2018 at 12:07 AM

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“ Dear Sandy and family,  
I was saddened to learn of the death of your beloved mother. Please accept my sympathy for your loss. Saying goodbye to a parent is hard and leaves us feeling unprotected by the adults of the world. I was impressed to read about all of your mother's interests and accomplishments. It's not hard to see how you come by your enthusiasm and passion for nature. You are in my thoughts during this sad time.  
Sincerely,  
Joan ten Hoor

**Joan ten Hoor** - May 21, 2018 at 11:07 AM