



Cheryl Ann Munson

August 8, 1944 - December 10, 2024

Cheryl Munson, 80, passed away on Tuesday, December 10, surrounded by family and friends.

Cheryl was born on August 8, 1944, to William C. and Shirley Ann (Johnson) White in Denver, CO. She was raised in Phoenix, AZ and received a BA in Anthropology from the University of Arizona. As an undergraduate she was involved in numerous archaeological projects in Arizona, Colorado and Washington State.

She was accepted to the graduate program (Anthropology) at the University of Illinois-Urbana in 1965. It was there that she met her future husband, fellow graduate student, Patrick Munson. Shortly after their marriage, in 1967, she joined him in his archaeological research in Mauritania. This led to her becoming somewhat famous across the southwestern Sahara, as the only woman who drove her own camel.

In 1969, she and Pat moved to the University of Pittsburgh. They moved to Monroe County in 1971 when her husband accepted a position at IU. In 1972, they purchased a small farm in Indian Creek Township. Shortly thereafter she was appointed as research associate at IU's Glenn Black Laboratory of Archaeology and subsequently at the Department of Anthropology. While in these positions she directed or co-directed major archaeological investigations

at pre-inundation Patoka Lake, Angel Mounds, GE Mound, Southwind, Hovey Lake, Bone Bank, Murphy, Prather, Mammoth Cave, Wyandotte Cave and other sites in southern Indiana and Kentucky. It is also during this period that she became increasingly involved in government affairs involving archeological resources. She retired from these roles with the rank of research scientist in 2021.

Cheryl was a beloved and dedicated public servant who started her career in local government as a member of the township fire board. In 1994 she was elected to the Indian Creek Township Board and served for 16 years. She also volunteered for Planned Parenthood, several Monroe County Community School Corporation committees, 4-H, The History Center, Friends of Lake Monroe and the Indian Creek Community Association.

Cheryl gave her time and energy to causes that strengthened our community and brought people together. She was re-elected in November to serve a fourth term as an At-Large member on the County Council. The Monroe County Democratic Party will call a caucus to fill her vacancy.

Cheryl was preceded in death by her parents and her brother James White. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, Patrick Munson, her daughter, Jennifer Munson (Chris Muth) of Ossining, NY, her son, Thomas Edward "Ted" (Suzanne) Munson of Noblesville, granddaughters Savannah Munson, Madeline Munson, Eileen Muth and Vivian Muth. She is also survived by her sister, Linda (Lawrence) Alessio of Solana Beach, CA, her brother Michael White of Phoenix, AZ and her beloved yellow lab Bella.

Visitation at Allen Funeral Home at 4155 S. Old State Rd 37, Bloomington IN 47401 will be held from 4pm to 8pm Wednesday December 18th. A celebration of life will be held at 5pm on Thursday December 19th, 2024 with

visitation before at 4pm at Allen Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Planned Parenthood <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/get-involved/other-ways-give> or the county's Sophia Travis Grant Fund, of which Cheryl was the proud committee chair and longtime supporter, with memorial managed by the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County. <https://shorturl.at/O8hmV> .

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory have been entrusted with arrangements. Online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com

Cemetery Details

Walkers Chapel Cemetery

8303 S. Rockport Rd
Bloomington, IN 47403

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 18. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Visitation

DEC 19. 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Celebration of Life

DEC **19**. 5:00 PM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory
4155 S. Old State Road 37
Bloomington, IN 47401
(812) 824-5905
<http://www.allencares.com>

Tribute Wall

RE

“ I first met Cheryl in my first year as a anthropology graduate student at the University of Arizona. As an undergraduate major Cheryl was energetic and active in classes and the program, and made frequent contributions to class discussions. A few years after I took a position at Purdue University, I again became aware of Cheryl as very active in midwestern archaeology, especially in the area of public involvement and outreach to the wider community. As the only archaeologist at Purdue for many years I became more involved in protecting local archaeological resources. I thus added an interest i Eastern Woodlands archaeology to my lowland Maya specialization.

When I became more active in documenting sites and collections, and recruited students to assist in local research, Cheryl reached out to me as I am sure she did to most of the other archaeologists in Indiana. She encouraged me to become more interactive with regional archaeologists. She was instrumental in developing the Council for the Conservation of Indiana Archaeology, so named to avoid being known as the CIA. Under her urging I joined the CCIA and served on the board and a term as Chair. She reached out to not just archaeologists but Native American activists, individuals and groups. As a group we regularly consulted with them on issues involving the preservation of important sites, prevention of looting, preserving heritage and many other issues. This outreach was one of Cheryl's great strengths.

Cheryl made major contributions to Eastern Woodland archaeology, public archaeology, and productive interaction with Native American individuals and groups. Indiana and midwestern archaeology have lost a major contributor to the discipline. Her legacy will continue well into the future.

Robert Fry
Professor Emeritus
Purdue University

Robert E. - February 11, 2025 at 06:20 PM

PS

“ Cheryl was a roommate at the sorority house at the University of Arizona and a pledge sister. We became friends and kept in touch over the years. Cheryl came to AZ for a reunion with HS friends in Flagstaff and she made a point to visit a couple of us in Tucson. We had her favorite green corn tamales and she caught me up on family and life in Indiana. From Facebook I saw that she loved her farm, her flowers, her children and her grandchildren and of course Pat most of all. I send my prayers and my sympathy to all the family as I know she will live in your hearts as she was so generous and special. Bless you all! Pat Staples

Patricia Staples - December 20, 2024 at 05:28 PM

EC

“ We will all miss you, Cheryl.



Erin Cuddihy - December 19, 2024 at 10:40 PM

ES

“ I first got to know Cheryl when she spoke to my political group about township government. A few years later, when I was appointed to fill a vacancy on my own township board, the education that I had gotten and continued to get from her was invaluable.

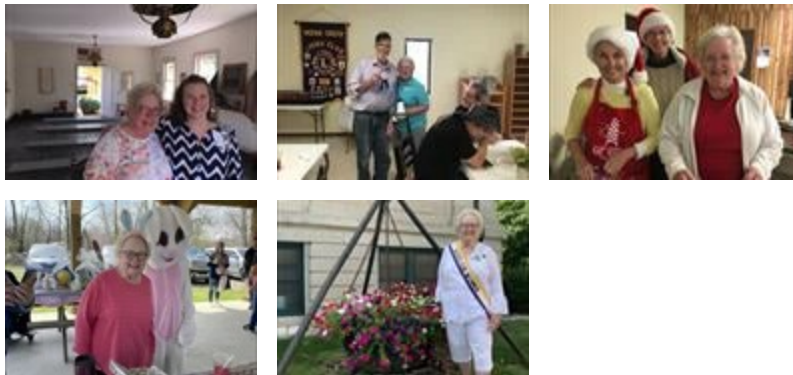
I, like Cheryl, also used to keep chickens. But several years ago, I started having increasing problems with bitey and beaky things that would come out of the woods and the sky and make my chickens go away. We soon got to where we had only one little araucana hen left -- we called her Lucky -- and I knew I needed to get her to a safer place before her luck ran out. I knew exactly who to ask. Cheryl was happy to take care of Lucky for many more years!

She was a good friend, and I will miss her deeply.

Eric Schmitz - December 19, 2024 at 06:27 PM

JB

“ Cheryl was one of the first people that I met when I moved to Indian Creek in 2007. I was immediately impressed by her creative flair and joyful approach to living and I came to be equally impressed by how freely she gave of her time and talents to help her community and the various causes and groups that she was passionate about. I was delighted to learn that we were both members of Alpha Delta Pi sorority, so it was fun getting to connect her with our local chapter and also see her at meetings and events for the Indian Creek Community Association and the Monroe County History Center. Her passing leaves a void in our community that will be hard to fill, but thankfully the solid foundations that she laid and the excellent example she set as a leader will have long-lasting impacts. I miss you friend and am sending an abundance of love your family's way!



Jennifer Diane Borland - December 19, 2024 at 01:52 PM

CM

“ I just adored Cheryl. She was such a genuine soul and cared deeply about our fellow humans. I knew her through my professional work with Area 10 Agency on Aging. And in that work, she very much cared about our most vulnerable seniors, getting food to the more rural areas, and senior center services. I could always count on Cheryl to ask hard questions and appreciate honest answers. May her light shine on through all of us who have been fortunate to share space with her.

Chris Myers - December 18, 2024 at 08:59 AM

JT

“ A true loss. I’ve known Cheryl for over 30 years, and worked on quite a few of the excavations she directed in Posey County, as well as assisting with the associated lab work, and collaborating on a number of publications. I was also part of her wonderful programs in public archaeology, including Indiana Archaeology Month, field trips to the excavations for 4th Graders and the general public, and the hands-on “Think Like an Archaeologist” programs we did at various grade schools. She was a dedicated professional who was also very committed to involving the entire community in the preservation of archaeological resources.

She taught me so much. About archaeology. About how to interact with people, often in conflicting situations where she had a unique ability to listen and then find a workable resolution. But above and beyond all of her professional and community work was her love and dedication to her family. She left us too soon.



Jocelyn Turner - December 17, 2024 at 06:11 PM

GG

“ Cheryl and I were best buds and roommates (when she didn't live at the sorority house) at the University of Arizona. We also attended Archaeology Field School in Grasshopper AZ one summer. She was a pistol and always great fun. I remember her driving a jeep in Phoenix with a railroad tie bumper...best not to give her trouble on the road! Oh Cheryl...I'm so happy that we were able to stay in touch and see each other even if it were years apart. Thank goodness you came to Tucson a few years ago for a visit! You will always live in a special chamber of my heart you former desert rat. Sending much love and good memories to her friends and family.

Gail Gibbons - December 17, 2024 at 03:03 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Cheryl Ann Munson.*



December 17, 2024 at 08:52 AM



“ *Cheryl was one of the most honest people that I have ever met. Cheryl had a strong moral compass, always told the truth, and always stood up for what was ethical and morally just. Cheryl bravely stood up for what she believed in. Cheryl always did the right thing, even when it meant personal and professional sacrifice. Cheryl devoted her life to helping others. She has been an inspiration to me throughout my career, as well as countless other students—undergraduate and graduate alike.*

Kenneth Barnett Tankersley - December 16, 2024 at 04:57 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Kenneth Barnett Tankersley - December 16, 2024 at 04:53 PM

KT

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Kenneth Barnett Tankersley - December 16, 2024 at 04:52 PM

KE

“ Kirk & Lindsey Evans purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Cheryl Ann Munson.



Kirk & Lindsey Evans - December 15, 2024 at 11:22 PM

LG

“ Linda Goodman lit a candle in memory of Cheryl Munson



Linda Goodman - December 14, 2024 at 11:29 AM



“ It's been my privilege to call Cheryl a dear friend since graduate school. We have shared good times and bad, and countless visits and phone calls over the years. She taught me how to do the illustrations for my husband's PhD thesis early on, brought knitting projects for us to do on long road trips, arranged a sweetgrass basket-making session for the two of us in Charleston, and made so many wonderful meals for the four of us to share at the farm. Over more than 50 years we shared book recommendations, vacations, recipes, stories, and then memories. My favorite memories now are sitting together on the porch watching the beautiful sunsets after one of Pat's bbqs.

Cheryl was, above all, passionate--about her family, her archaeological work, her community, her politics, her and Pat's garden, her flowers, their labs, and her friends. When one was with her, she was totally present and focused--those blue eyes piercing. I know her many friends and colleagues share my grief at her passing, and even then we can't begin to know how Pat, her children, her 4 precious grand-girls, and her siblings feel. I hope we will all be comforted in time by the incredibly beautiful memories she left us.

Jody Douglas



Jody Douglas - December 13, 2024 at 03:24 PM

AM

“ I send my sympathy at this time. I admired Cheryl greatly for her service to the community as a County Council member. She also helped me personally with a problem and was so kind as she solved it. She was a very special person.

Antonia Matthew - December 13, 2024 at 10:52 AM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Cheryl Ann Munson.



December 13, 2024 at 09:58 AM

MC

“ Michelle C. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cheryl Ann Munson.

Michelle C. - December 13, 2024 at 09:44 AM

BS

“ My condolences to Cheryl's family and friends. Cheryl and I worked together when she was with Indiana University and I was with the Louisville Corps of Engineers.

Brent Smith - December 12, 2024 at 10:03 PM

FB

“ From Jann Brand planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Cheryl A. Munson.

From Jann Brand - December 12, 2024 at 05:50 PM

FB

“ From Jann Brand purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Cheryl Ann Munson.



From Jann Brand - December 12, 2024 at 05:50 PM

JS

“ Julie Fowler and Brian Somers purchased the Small Garden Dish for the family of Cheryl Ann Munson.



Julie Fowler and Brian Somers - December 12, 2024 at 03:38 PM



“ Sincere condolences to Cheryl's family and friends. Thank you, Cheryl, for your life of service.

Jennifer Festa - December 12, 2024 at 03:35 PM

JF

“ Our most heartfelt and deepest condolences to the Munson family. I spent a lot of my childhood on the farm, riding horses and swimming in the pond. I’m grateful for those memories and for my husband, who Cheryl introduced me to and somehow she just knew we would be together forever. I’m forever grateful for her daughter Jennifer, my best friend as well. Please know that you are all in my thoughts and prayers.

Julie Fowler - December 12, 2024 at 03:14 PM

AJ

“ Amy Johnson lit a candle in memory of Cheryl Munson



Amy Johnson - December 12, 2024 at 02:40 PM

AJ

“ Cheryl leaves a substantial and impressive legacy in Indiana archaeology and beyond. Her research and fieldwork in archaeology has been so important to understanding the past in our state and many others. She will definitely be remembered by her many colleagues and friends in the archaeology and historic preservation communities. I will personally remember her kindness, and her dedication to sharing archaeology with the public.

I send my sincerest condolences to Cheryl's family at this difficult time.

Amy Johnson, Indiana State Archaeologist

Amy Johnson - December 12, 2024 at 02:40 PM