



Concepcion "Connie" Simmons

November 11, 1922 - December 18, 2018

Concepcion (Connie) Simmons, age 96, of Bloomington, died on December 18, 2018 at the Brown County Health and Living Community in Nashville, IN. She was born November 11, 1922 in Mexico City, Mexico to Alfonso Rojas and Maria de la Concepcion Gracia Medrano de Rojas.

Connie met Merle E. Simmons, Emeritus Professor of Spanish and Portuguese at Indiana University, in Mexico City in 1941 when Merle was doing graduate work. For six years they maintained a long-distance relationship, only seeing each other in the summers in Mexico. Then Connie came to the U.S. in 1947 where she worked at Eli Lilly in Indianapolis as a bilingual secretary. Merle and Connie were married on September 6, 1948 and were married for 59 years until Merle's death in 2008.

Other than a short period when she lived in Ann Arbor, Michigan while Merle was completing his doctorate, Connie spent the rest of her life in Bloomington as a devoted wife and mother who was active in the IU Faculty Wives Club and a Spanish conversation circle, called "La Mesa", that met weekly at the Tudor Room. She loved to travel with her family and lived in Europe, Mexico and South America as her husband's work as an academic allowed her to live in Europe, Mexico, and South America. She was an active member of both St. Charles Borromeo Church and St. Paul Catholic Center.

Connie lived in Bloomington for over 60 years, loved Indiana, I.U. and was a self-proclaimed Hoosier and proud U.S. citizen. It was fitting that she lived the last few years of her life and died in Brown County, one of her favorite places to spend a Sunday afternoon. Her daughters would like to thank the staff at the Brown County Health and Living Community for the wonderful care and attention they provided to their mother since she moved there in January 2013.

Survivors include daughter Martha (“Marta”) Simmons Wright and husband Leo Wright of Cincinnati, OH; daughter Mary Alice (“Maria”) Hamilton and husband Jason Hamilton of Bloomington; granddaughters Andrea and Emily Hunt, Raquel Davis, and Alejandra and Isabel Hamilton; and grandson Antonio Hamilton. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews in Mexico.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, and her sister, Maria de los Angeles Millan Rojas.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be conducted at 10:00AM on Saturday, December 22 at St. Paul Catholic Center, 1413 E. 17th St. with Father Patrick Hyde, O.P. officiating. A one-hour visitation will be held at 9:00am prior to the service. Burial will be at Clear Creek Cemetery following the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the St. Paul Catholic Center 1413 E. 17th Street or the Merle E. Simmons Fellowship P370004881, in care of the Indiana University Foundation either at P.O. Box 6460, Indianapolis, IN 46240 or at give.iu.edu.

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory 4155 South Old State Road 37 is handling the arrangements and online condolences, photos and memories may be shared with family and friends at www.allencares.com.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Paul's Catholic Center
1413 East 17th Street
Bloomington, IN 47408

Tribute Wall

CS

“ *It is in sadness that we send condolences to you learning that your Mom passed away. She was a special person in her gentle and gracious ways. It was a pleasure to have Connie as a Saratoga Drive neighbor for many years. Regret not being there to honor your Mom, but we have moved to Carmel, the miles and other circumstances keep us from making the trip. You and your Mom will remain in our thoughts and prayers.*
Andy and Connie Sweetana

Constance L. Sweetana - January 02, 2019 at 11:47 AM



“ *In His Honor Pedestal Arrangement was purchased for the family of Concepcion "Connie" Simmons.*



December 21, 2018 at 05:40 PM



“ *Maria and Marta,*
I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your precious mother. I have wonderful memories of the time that I spent with her and your dad as well. We laughed together and sometimes we cried and sometimes we laughed until we cried! I loved her dearly.
I love you all I am praying for you during this difficult time.
To my sweet little Concha...may you Rest In Peace my dear friend.
Beverly Cloe

Beverly Cloe - December 21, 2018 at 06:53 AM

PF

“ Dear Maria, Jason, Raquel, Alejandra, Isabel, and Antonio. We offer our deepest sympathies for your loss. Please know that Concepcion and all of you are in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Peter, Jutta, Thomas and Claire Finn

Peter Finn - December 21, 2018 at 06:13 AM

SR

“ Sending hugs and kisses, Lisa and Regina purchased the Serene Green™ Bouquet For Sympathy for the family of Concepcion "Connie" Simmons.



Sending hugs and kisses, Lisa and Regina - December 20, 2018 at 09:48 PM



“ Dear Marta and María,
As you may recall, I was a longtime faculty member in Spanish and Portuguese and I worked with your father for many years. When I was chair, I created the distinguished alumni lecture in his honor, which both your parents, and then your mother, attended over the years..

I have fond memories of your mother, who was always so delightful and kind. She spoke Spanish with me, although my Spanish had gone by the wayside a bit after being in Portuguese for so long. She was sweet to make me feel I was still fluent!

I send my best wishes to you both and to your families.

*Warm regards,
Darlene Sadlier*

Darlene Sadlier - December 20, 2018 at 03:21 PM

CM

“ *Maria & Family: Jim and I are so sorry for the loss of your beautiful mother. I can still remember coming over to see the twins and Raquel... your Mom was holding Raquel and smiling so proudly at the twins in their high chairs. I know she was just as proud when you gave her a grandson! She was full of grace and love... and you Maria are so much like her. Our deepest sympathy to all your family. Love you*

Cathy A Murphy - December 19, 2018 at 06:07 PM

AP

I have vivid memory of going to your house to play in 5 th grade and you “ sassing “ your mom and running up the stairs. She looked at me and had a smile on her face saying “ oh, Maria “ or what ever she chuckled. She was the most patient loving mother. She was simply a great woman and will always be remembered fondly. I am sorry for you loss.

Love Alexandra

alexandra pike - December 20, 2018 at 07:52 PM