



Marjorie S. Counsilman

July 25, 1924 - August 17, 2017

Marjorie S. Counsilman, age 93 of Bloomington passed away Thursday August 17, 2017 at the Hearthstone Health Campus.

Born in Newark, Ohio on July 25, 1924 to John and Mary Scrafford, Marge was the oldest of three daughters. She is survived by her daughters Cathy Counsilman (Steve Bonner) and Jill Morris (Mike), both of Bloomington; grandchildren Dan DeSalle (Mallori), Chris DeSalle (Kristin), Leslie Blankenship (Kyle), Helen Morris, and Jim Morris; and six great-grandchildren. Preceding her in death were her sons Jim and Brian, and her husband James "Doc" Counsilman (former I.U. Swimming Coach).

Marge graduated with honors from Cuyahoga Falls (Ohio) High School, initially attended Ohio State University, and later worked towards completing her degree in English

at IU. She met her future husband Jim, a swim star at Ohio State and life guard at her hometown pool, when he kicked her out of the pool for eating a candy bar. Afterwards, their relationship quickly evolved into a life-long romance. They married in 1942 and were together until Doc's death in 2004.

Marge was not only a housewife and devoted mother of four, but in all ways a partner in her husband's distinguished career. She helped Doc write and edit his articles

and books,
managed the family business that included the production, merchandising and distribution of
Doc's numerous swim innovations, ran Doc's summer camps, and, perhaps most
importantly, became a substitute "Mom" to Doc's collegiate swimmers. After putting her own children to bed, it wasn't unusual for Marge to spend the rest of the evening typing a paper for one of the swimmers or helping another with an assignment.

Her lasagna parties for the team became legendary. In 2004, to honor this beloved woman for all her contributions to the sport, The International Swimming Hall of Fame named Marge "The Grande Dame of Swimming".

Locally, Marge was a member and past president of The Bloomington Garden Club and Psi Iota Xi Sorority. When her children were swimming for BSC, she ran dozens of swim meets at Bryan Park Pool. More recently, she owned and helped to operate The Loaf and Ladle Restaurant. While still able, she was a gardener, a voracious reader, a gifted writer, and a world traveler. The first to admit that swimming was not one of her strong-suits, Marge continued her daily swims until the age of eighty-six. When asked about her diligence, she explained, "It's what my husband would have wanted".

A caring, intelligent and fun-loving woman, Marge will not only be missed by her immediate family, but by the many swimmers who still regard her as "Mom".

No visitation or services are planned. Those wishing to honor Marge's life may contribute to The Counsilman Center for the Science of Swimming, c/o The I.U. Foundation.

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.

Tribute Wall

SM

“ *Sheree Miller lit a candle in memory of Marjorie S. Counsilman*



Sheree Miller - August 22, 2017 at 08:47 AM

SG

“ *I met Marge back in the 70's at IU through friends I had on the IU swim team . She was a gem and her lasagna meals for the swimmers were remarkable and also delicious. She was always kind, gentle and loving and truly a second mom to those who swam for Doc.*

I ran into her one day working in her yard after I returned to Bloomington on 91 to work for IU. Doc was in a wheelchair suffering from PD and although 20 years had passed she still remembered me. Rest in Peace and say hi to Doc!

Sylvia Chambers Garrison - August 22, 2017 at 07:57 AM

JL

“ *My favorite memory about Marge Counsilman is not really a memory but a feeling. Marge was always there at functions or dinners making her lasagna and you always had this feeling that she cared about you and everyone there and if you needed someone to talk to about something you didn't think you could talk to Doc about she would be there to listen and comfort you. She was the definition of the great women with a great man.*

Jeff LeBeau - August 20, 2017 at 09:18 AM

LS

“ I worked at Bandido's restaurant when I first came to Bloomington in 1982. It was always a delight to serve your parents. They were clearly a devoted couple.

Linda Scott - August 20, 2017 at 08:18 AM

DG

“ As a student at IU in the early 2000's, I was honored to share a creative writing class with Marge. Her smile, energy and passion were quite infectious. On the first day of class, she explained that she was taking classes at IU to hone her writing skills and continue to learn, which was quite impressive for someone in their late 70's. Despite her age, she fit in rather well with a group of 18-22 year olds in class and was always very eager to share her knowledge, but also learn from others as well. We all welcomed her with open arms and had many great discussions during the semester. I got to know Marge quite well during this time and will always remember her caring personality and what a joy it was to share a class with her. My thoughts and condolences to her family and friends as she was a special woman!

David Gudal - August 20, 2017 at 07:39 AM