



## Martha "Marti" Fleming

January 8, 1952 - May 12, 2014

Martha "Marti" Fleming (62)-Passed away at her residence unexpectedly in the early morning hours on Monday , May 12. Marti was born in Indianapolis on January 8, 1952 to Eugene and Eloise Bowen. Extremely smart and precocious she skipped the 4th grade and went on to graduate Carmel High in 1969. She matriculated to Indiana University that fall where she met football player Tom Fleming and they married in October, 1971 after a whirlwind of a romance (just 6 weeks of dating). A year later in November 1972 her beautiful daughter Carrie was born, followed by Zach (1974), Katie (1978) and Wil (1982). Motherhood was Marti's most treasured life's work, only superseded by her work as a grandmother. In 1998 Marti became a Grandma for the first time and 5 more times since, with number seven on the way (whom she was blessed to meet last week during an ultrasound). Kobe, Ella, Avery, Bowen Fleming, and Calli and Nell Halaris, her grandchildren, each felt like they were her favorite and they were all right! They will never know how much she loved each of them. Marti was special in that way to everyone who knew her.

Marti was full of love, laughter and her belief that love can conquer all things overflowed to countless animals of all breeds and species that knew her and loved her. She pioneered the

Owen County Humane Society in the late 1970's and early 1980's. Her house served as wildlife sanctuary and rehabilitation center for many years up until current day.

She had a passion for life and for all of god's creatures and a special spot in her heart for the "underdog" whether that be human or animal. Many wildlife organizations benefited from her donations and involvement (some of her favorites were the animal shelters in Monroe and Owen county and WildCare in Monroe County and Rocky Ridge Refuge in Arkansas.)

No matter how her body failed her, she let few know the intense physical pain she had. She was the strongest and toughest woman we knew. Her death was unexpected and painful for those left behind. However, we take comfort knowing that her pain is no longer and she is with those that preceded her in death, father and mother Eugene and Eloise Bowen and more furry creatures than can be listed. We are sure they surround you in heaven in God's embrace.

She leaves behind her husband of 42 loving years, Thomas. Her four children, along with their husbands, wives and children who miss her more than she could have imagined: Carrie Fleming (of Bloomington), Zachary and Becky Fleming (of Bloomington), Kathryn and James Halaris (of Louisville) and Wilson and Ashley Fleming (of Bloomington) Six grandkids, Kobe, Ella, Avery, Bowen Fleming and Calli and Nell Halaris, three brothers Eugene (Mac) Bowen (of Indianapolis), Roger (Rock) Bowen (of Maine), and Robert (Bob) Bowen (of Patricksburg). As well, we would be remiss to not mention the furry friends that were the center of Marti's world that also ache with her passing: Reggie, Gizmo, Socs, Lou, Boyd, Sparky, Baxter and Albert and Skippy the turtle.

"If tears could build a stairway, and memories a lane, we'd walk

right up to heaven and bring you home again."

Marti's family will receive family and friends to pay honor to her memory, from 4:00PM until 8:00PM Thursday May 15, 2014 at Allen Funeral Home 4155 South Old Highway 37.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at [www.allenfuneralhome.org](http://www.allenfuneralhome.org).

Memorial contributions can be made to one of Marti's favorite animal humane organizations:

Monroe County Humane Association, 3410 S Walnut St., Bloomington, IN 47401

Owen County Humane Association, 2014 Romona Rd., Spencer, IN 47460

Rocky Ridge Refuge, c/o Janice Wolf, PO Box 105, Midway AR 72651

Wildcare 198 N Hartstrait Rd. Bloomington, IN 47404 812.323.1313  
[info@wildcareinc.org](mailto:info@wildcareinc.org)

# Tribute Wall

NA

“ I too roomed with Marti, Patty and Beverly in Bloomington and will never forget the fun times and happy spirit Marti was. My condolences to her lovely family.

Nancy Green - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

PA

“ I had the extreme pleasure of having Marti as our roommate at Indiana University, Bloomington. Beverly Roach, Nancy Green, Patty Swisshelm, and Marti Bowen had many, many laughs and good times in our plantation apartment. One time Marti decided to dye her hair, didn't like the color so the next day she highlighted it again. Her hair couldn't take the dye and started to fall out in clumps in the sink. We just started laughing and couldn't stop. Marti was making a ton of jokes about her hair and appearance, knowing that it would grow back. We were happy that she met Tom, but selfishly sad that we would no longer be roomies! My thoughts and prayers go to your family and extended families.

Patty Swisshelm - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

JA

“ It is not everyday that someone you admire and love enters your life and makes an impact. I was a very young man when I met Marti. I have had the privilege of being friends with three of her children. I shed tears with them and look forward to seeing Marti in Heaven. We all miss her, yet I take comfort in knowing that Heaven is even better for having her home.

James Barnett - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

B(

“ I just learned this sad, sad news and my heart is aching. The world has lost a wonderful, beautiful, caring woman who loved life and had a heart of gold.

Words cannot express the grief I feel for Tom, their children and their grandchildren. You will forever be in my thoughts and prayers.

As Eloise always said we would be - Marti and I were "forever friends". Even though our lives took different paths, you were always close in my heart and I will miss you my dear, dear "forever friend".

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**Beverly Ricks (Roach)** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

KA

“ Missing you and all the love and joy you gave me everyday.

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**Kate Halaris** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

GH

“ To the Bowen Fleming family,  
I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your mother. I was a childhood friend of Marti's from Carmel and I will always remember her sunny smile and fun ways. She was a true - and unique - friend. I will think of her in the loving comfort of her parents' presence and know that she is now taking care of all the dogs in heaven.  
With love and sympathy to Marti's beloved family, Gail (Moran) Huff

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**Gail (Moran) Huff** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

SR

“ Please except our sympathy on the loss of Marti. We are first cousins (Kittinger) yet we didn't have the opportunity to really know Marti. We did follow her on Facebook and admired the work she was doing with "underdogs". We are underdog lovers ourselves. Love cousin Susie & Rob

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**Susie & Rob Tuckey** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

JO

“ Dear Tom,  
I was greatly saddened to learn of your wife's sudden passing this past Monday and can hardly imagine how difficult this is for you and your family. Fortunately, you have a large and loving family and many friends and colleagues to help you through this trying time. Kristine and I send our heartfelt condolences and wish you strength and patience in the days and years ahead.

With sympathy,  
John & Kristine Wilcox

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**John Wilcox** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

RA

“ I'm saddened to hear about your sudden loss. May the sorrow you feel in your heart lighten by the love that surrounds you.

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**Rachel Maes** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

SR

“ Zack, Becky, Katie, and family,

*Words can't express how sadden Katie, Reagan, and I was to find out about the passing of your mother Marti. I know it hurts when a loved one leaves us, but she will be forever in GOD's Kingdome above were you will be able to reunite with here again someday far from now. She is free from the physical pain she had here on Earth, and will live on in all of your memories. We will keep you and your families in our thoughts and prayers. GOD bless to all of you and keep remembering all of the good times you had with your mother.*

*With Love,*

*Scott, Katie, and Reagan Brown*

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**Scott, Katie, and Reagan Brown** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

RM

“ Tom, Carrie, Zach, Katie, and Wil -

*My heart goes out to you all. The news of Aunt Marti's passing was stunning and remains incomprehensible. I have very fond memories of her during my childhood, long before you were born. She was my most favorite, coolest aunt! And I thought (and still think) Tom and Marti's wedding was the most beautiful ever. I can't begin to know how you are feeling, but I pray it is well with your soul.*

*My deepest condolences and heartfelt prayers,*

*Love,*

*Cousin Roni*

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**Roni Bowen Mitchell** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

RK

“ *To our new neighbors:*

*Our sympathy at this difficult time*

*Karen and Bob Becker*

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**Robert and Karen Becker** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

AD

“ *Please know we are thinking of you at this difficult time. Patti was a great person and mother. Special prayers to Becky, Zach and Will from the Dunn's.*

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**Allen & Susan Dunn** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

J(

“ *Our deepest condolences by the los of your love one.*

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**Johan and Karolien Vaes-Stevens Konings (Belgium)** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

AN

“ *James and his family  
Please kindly accept my condolences and my prayers are with you in these difficult times.  
Annette*

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**Annette Garnier** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

CD

“ James, Kate,

*The sorrow of the faithful is not the sorrow of loss. It is the tender sense of sadness in saying good-bye for now to someone we'll love forever.*

*Chantal Dylst*

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**Chantal Dylst** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

AR

“ Wil and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. I know it is painful and heartbreaking but God will bring you through this. Just put it in God's hands. Your mom was such a sweet lady and will be greatly missed. You are all in my thoughts and prayers.

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**Andrea Ridge (Dalla Rosa)** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

RE

“ Kate Halaris and Family,

*Sending hugs and wishing you strength during this difficult time. Sending a memorial contribution to Monroe County Humane Association in honor of your mom.*

*Love,*

*Renee, Grant, and Lillian*

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**Renee Shomer** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

JA

“ I am so very sorry at your loss. She was a fine lady. My prayers will be for her but they will also be for you and your family. God bless.

James Chickowski - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

PA

“ Cousin Marti was such a wonderful lady. She will be greatly missed by everyone who knew and loved her. So sorry to hear of your sudden loss. Last time I saw her was at the Bowen Reunion in Kent must be at least 20 years ago. Before that I remember family picnics in the backyard with the Bowen Clan in the summer. Marti was just a kid then and so was I. Love and best wishes Cousin Paul

Paul Trull - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

JD

“ We are so very sorry for your loss. It was an honor to know such a kind and giving woman. I am sure she new how greatly she was loved.

Jan & Dave Hagemeyer - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

KA

“ I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Kathy McKeand - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

IN

“ James,  
My deepest condolences to you and your family.  
You are in my thoughts during this difficult time.

Ingrid Vandenbergh - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

KR

“ *I would like to express my sincere condolences.  
Wishing you peace as you grieve this loss.*

*Kris Kelchtermans  
Konings - Belgium*

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**Kris Kelchtermans** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

MI

“ *Much strength at this heavy loss.*

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**Mieke Everaert** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

WI

“ *My sincere condolences. I wish you a lot of courage to get through  
this difficult period.*

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**William ROOX** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

FR

“ *Dear family,*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you, we hope that you can  
all share a lot of love and support with each other.*

*Our special thoughts go to Katie, James, Calli and Nell.*

*All the best from James' belgian buddy,*

*Frank & Hilde Vandebek - Jacobs, Lauren & Jill*

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**Frank Vandebek** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

JE

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. I remember Marti's generosity of her time when Kobe and our 3rd grade classroom sewed classroom quilts. She came in, organized with a ton of sewing materials and cool as a cucumber as 20+ kids asked her to fix their sewing mistakes. I feel lucky to have that same quilt today with the memories of Kobe's grandma sewed all over it. Thanks Marti.

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**Jennifer Fox** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

WE

“ What a lovely life she led! The Fleming family are in our thoughts.

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**Wendi Chitwood** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

HA

“ Marti was present to me ever since fate introduced me to Kate; her beauty, her kindness, her love for the world shined through her daughter and my dear friend. Every connection, and I chose that word carefully, it was always more than an interaction, with her and those she created and shaped (it was clear early on there were many) was meaningful. There is a realness and kindness in the Flemings I know Marti will forever have a part in. Let Marti's memory form how you live life to the fullest in her influence and honor from this day forward.

*Chi vive sperando -- muore cantando.*

*Much Love,  
Hannah*

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**Hannah Kelbaugh** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

BO

“ So so for your loss. What a wonderful person, she will be missed.  
Thoughts and prayers to The Fleming family.

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**Barbie ( DeHart ) Olson** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

JK

“ To the Fleming Family:  
Our hearts go out to you as you mourn the passing of Marti. Please  
know we hold your family in love and prayer, John & Karla

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**John and Karla Kamstra** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM

PA

“ It is with heartfelt thoughts of the passing of the beautiful wife of  
Tom, mother, and grandmother. Godspeed Marti.

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**patrick money** - October 26, 2015 at 04:05 PM