



# Janet "Louise" McGinniss

FEB 6, 1941 - AUG 25, 2021



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# Janet "Louise" McGinniss

FEB 6, 1941 - AUG 25, 2021

**J**anet Louise McGinniss of Lewes, passed away peacefully at home on August 25, 2021, surrounded by her family after a long battle with Multiple Sclerosis

Louise was born in Wilmington on Feb 6, 1941, to Frederick and Lillie Maske. She attended the Marshallton School and HC Conrad High School where she excelled in basketball, softball, and field hockey. In 1961, Louise married her high school sweetheart, Walter Preston McGinniss and moved to Claymont. In 1962, Walt joined the Wilmington Fire Department and they moved back to Wilmington where Louise worked for the Diamond State Telephone Company and later retired from the Cigna Insurance Company.

During her life, Louise was an athlete. She bowled for several leagues including the Wilmington Turners where she was a past president of the Ladies Auxiliary. In 1991 Louise was diagnosed with MS and in 1999 Louise retired to Lewes with her husband and joined the YMCA of Rehoboth where she volunteered and taught children to swim.

During her long battle with MS, Louise never let it hold her back. She received numerous awards for volunteerism including the 2010 Jefferson Award for Outstanding Community Service, the 2003 Sussex YMCA Volunteer of the Year Award and she was presented with the 2005 Funky Monkey Award for outstanding work as a role model for others with Multiple Sclerosis. She was the first recipient of the Delaware Senior Olympics Charlie Marten Award in 2005 and received the Wilma Rudolph Award for Courage and Overcoming Adversity in Athletic Performance in 2007. Louise was an avid swimmer and participated in the Annual Lewes Polar Bear Plunge for 17 years. Each year she raised over \$2,500 for the Special Olympics. Louise was also a Gold, Silver and Bronze Medalist in the Delaware Senior Olympics. She also volunteered at the MS Bike to the Bay, The Dewey Beach Triathlon, and the MS Walk where she and her teammates were avid fundraisers.

Louise was a proud member of the Sussex County MS Shore Group, the American Legions Post 28, the Wilmington Turners Club, and the Conley's United Methodist Church.



## Obituary

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Louise is survived by her husband Walter of 60 years; her daughter, Kimberly Burns; son-in-law, John; two grandsons: John "JB" Lawrence Burns III and Shane Donegal Burns; her son, Kenneth McGinniss and brother Fred Maske and his wife Marlene; and a niece and nephews. Louise was predeceased by her parents Frederick and Lillie Maske and her brother Donald W. Maske.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, September 11, 2021, at 11:00 AM, at Conley's United Methodist Church, 33106 Jolyn's Way, Lewes, DE where friends may visit beginning at 10:00 AM. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Special Olympics Delaware, 619 South College Ave, Newark DE 19716, and the Conley's United Methodist Church, 33106 Jolyns Way, Lewes, DE 19958.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.






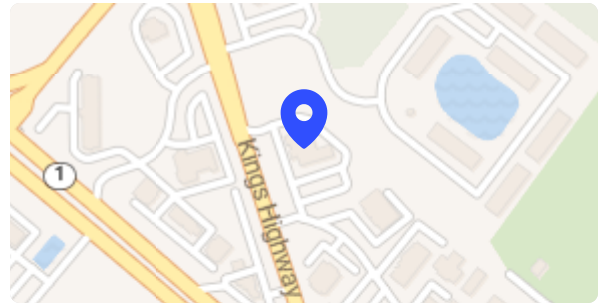
## Events

**Janet "Louise" McGinniss**




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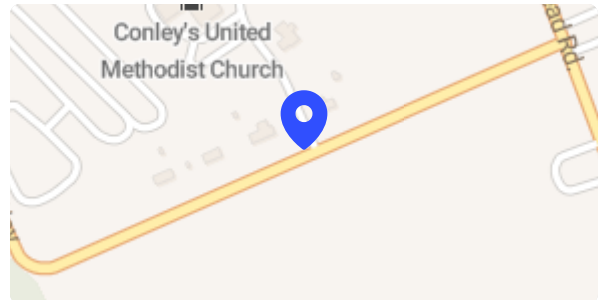
### Flowers to be delivered by:

-  **Friday**, September 10, 2021
-  4:00 PM ET
-  **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel**  
16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958






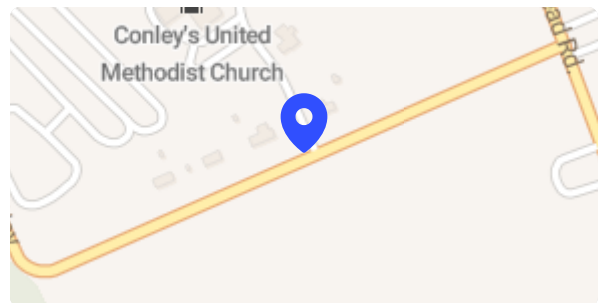
### Visitation

-  **Saturday**, September 11, 2021
-  10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
-  **Conley's United Methodist Church**  
33106 Jolyn's Way, Lewes DE



### Celebration of life

-  **Saturday**, September 11, 2021
-  11:00 AM ET
-  **Conley's United Methodist Church**  
33106 Jolyn's Way, Lewes DE





# Tribute Wall

**Janet "Louise" McGinniss**

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**Stephen Haner** posted:

Sept. 29,2021, I just learned of Louise passing on. I met Louise after I was newly diagnosed w/ M.S. She inspired me to work out at the YMCA, which I hit it hard for two years. It alleviated many problems I would have experienced in the future. She was a beautiful soul, and I will never forget her or her loving husband Walt, who was always at her side. It seemed to me they had an extraordinary bond and deep affection for each other. You will truly be missed. Stephen Haner

September 29 at 11:11 AM



**Barbara Sweeney** posted:

I was sadden to about Louise's passing. I thought of the first years of softball. She was the one who got me started with the Turners. What great times.What a wonderful person, I haven't seen her for years, but I would think of her when softball season came around.My deepest condolences to Preston and family.Barb Sweeney

September 12 at 9:09 AM



**Ron & Joann Ayres** lit a candle in honor of Janet.

Deepest condolences to Walt and family, Ron and JoAnn Ayres

September 10 at 4:24 PM



**Barbara Clark** posted:

Dear Family, We are so very sorry for the loss of Louise. Walter and I remember Happy times swimming in the Sr Olympics with Louise. She always had a smile on her face.We will keep you in our prayers.With love,Barbara and Walter Clark

September 7 at 9:11 AM



**Joe & Mary Gardner** lit a candle in honor of Janet.

September 6 at 8:18 AM





## Tribute Wall

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TG

**Thomas Groves** posted:

Walt I am sorry to hear of Louise's passing she was an incredibly strong woman. I am just happy she was able to spend the time she did with you and doing what she loved to do.

September 4 at 6:39 PM

JH

**Judith K. Harrington** posted:

Preston I don't know if you remember me or not? I'm Judy Harrington, wife of Raymond "Reds" Harrington. I just want you to know that my heart goes out to you and your family during this very sad time. Reds always thought the world of you both, although I'm sure that you probably knew that. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.

September 4 at 4:51 PM

RS

**Ron Stitely** posted:

It was a sad day when I learned of Louise passing. She was a brave soul that fought her problem with MS for so many years. She loved her church, her "Walt", and many others. I will miss her smile and her upbeat spirit. R.I.P Louise 🙏

September 4 at 6:54 AM

KK

**Kk** posted:

I was so sad to hear of her passing. She was a remarkable woman and a role model to many of us. Such great care and love you gave her Walt. I loved swimming with her and no one loved swimming more than my buddy Louise. with much love ,KKay

September 3 at 12:35 PM

NK

**Neal Kubala** posted:

Walt, our deepest sympathy to you and family. I will never forget the hugs that, I called her Weesey, after my mother named Louise, that she always gave me at church. she will always be in my heart. Neal, Bevann, and Adam Kubala

September 3 at 6:38 AM



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JF

**Jackie Ferris** posted:

Louise was in a class at the YMCA called "Strong & Sculptured". She worked harder than any of us! She lived a mighty life. May the Lord hold her in his loving arms.

September 2 at 4:20 PM

CG

**Carol A Goerner** posted:

Dear Walt, I was saddened to hear of Louise passing. She was an amazing woman and role model. Her sense of humor put a smile on everyones face. Louise will be missed by many. My deepest sympathy to you and your family. Sincerely Carol A Goerner, TX

September 2 at 5:19 AM

RA

**Rose Amadio** posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. We have good memories of Louise. May she Rest In Peace. God bless you and your family. Your friends,Ron and Rose Amadio

September 1 at 3:52 PM

SP

**Sandy Petrucci** posted:

Walt, Kim, John & Family So sorry for your loss my thoughts & prayers are with all. Louise was a fun & loving lady. Always enjoyed being in her company. ❤️❤️😊😊🙏 Sandy Petrucci

September 1 at 3:25 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Janet by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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