



Marlys J. Cowan

AUG 26, 1933 - AUG 12, 2023



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Marlys J. Cowan, age 89, of Lewes, DE passed away at home on Saturday, August 12, 2023, surrounded by loved ones. She was born on August 26, 1933, in Decatur, IA. She was the daughter of the late Jesse and Ethel (Hale) Coffin.

Marlys graduated from Ottumwa High School in 1951. She married the love of her life, William Lawrence Cowan on December 20, 1951, at First Lutheran Church, in Ottumwa. Bill was enlisted in the Navy, and after they were married, they were stationed in San Diego, Jacksonville and Sanford, FL, Alameda, CA, Memphis, TN, and Puerto Rico. Through their travels, Marlys cared for their children and home.

In 1964, the Cowan family settled in Lewes where they knew they had finally found their forever home. Marlys continued to raise her family in Lewes while Bill was stationed in Spain, Iceland, and Cuba.

Marlys was a devoted and active member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lewes. In the past, she held several positions in the Episcopal Church, including president of EWC, serving on the Vestry and past Senior and Junior Warden.

Marlys was a proud homemaker and was at her happiest when her whole family was at her house together. She truly loved her girlfriends, her Bob Evans buddies, her adopted hometown of Lewes, and her beloved poodle, Bella.

In addition to her parents, Marlys was preceded in death by her siblings: Vernice McClure, John Coffin and Frances Shumaker. She is survived by her children: Michelle Cowan Roenke, Bill Cowan Jr. (Jeannette), and Jill Cowan Stevens; her grandchildren: Maggie Cowan Thompson (Josh), Pierson Roenke (Allie), Alex Roenke Cirone (James), and Sarah Stevens; her great-grandchildren: George Thompson, Maisie Thompson, Wynn Roenke, Penelope Cirone and Peter Roenke III; and her treasured Iowa Family.



Obituary

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A ceremony and burial will be held privately.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to a charity of your choice.

Services are private.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL ARRANGEMENTS BY 3:00 PM ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 2023, TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.



Tribute Wall

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MD

Marlys Breon-Drish posted:

I am so sorry for the Cowan family and Marlys' passing. I never knew Marlys but my mother spoke of her often as they both attended OHS in Ottumwa, IA. My mother liked her and her name so much that she gave me the same name. My mother's name is Jacqueline Reno Breon. -----Marlys Breon-Drish

August 19 at 7:52 AM

MD

Maribeth Dockety posted:

Sending condolences to the entire Cowan family on the loss of their sweet Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother. We remember our chats at the Captain's Table years ago, and she always shared stories about her kids with us. She will be missed by all who knew her. With God's blessings, Grant and Maribeth Dockety

August 19 at 7:00 AM

NT

Nancy Tribbitt posted:

Our sincere condolences to Michelle, Bill, Jill, and their extended families on the loss of their mother. Mrs Cowan was always the welcoming hostess to all of her children's friends growing up! Thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. With love, Nancy and Tuffy Tribbitt

August 18 at 5:55 AM

TF

The Mcgloin Family lit a candle in honor of Marlys.



August 17 at 5:39 PM

NH

Nina Hazzard posted:

Mrs Cowan was always so welcoming!! She was like a second mother and helped give me understanding of some of the challenges in my life!! Hugs to all on the family!@

August 17 at 12:51 PM



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Charlotte Adkins Bastian posted:

I loved Marlys so very much and will think of her every day and miss her so much. We had so very many meaningful conversations. They always included updates about her family. Her family has always been her number one priority. She had a generous and wonderful heart and we shared so many times too numerous to list. I am thankful for the memories and she will be in my heart forever. My love to her wonderful family and may God bless each one of you. I know you will find peace through your memories. Charlotte A Bastian

August 17 at 5:24 AM



Pat Donovan August 21 at 3:11 AM

Jill and family I'm so sorry to hear about your Mom's passing. She was a wonderful person and very proud of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. May she rest in peace. Pat Donovan



Anonymous sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Cowan family.



August 16 at 10:41 AM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Marlys.



August 16 at 10:41 AM



Naomi Rickards lit a candle in honor of Marlys.



August 16 at 8:41 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Cowan family.



August 16 at 7:17 AM



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FR

Fran posted:

I'll miss Mom Cowan so much. She always welcomed me with open arms and always had a ready smile. I'm thinking of all of you, her family, and know how difficult this is. Be comforted by your wonderful memories and all the years you had together.

August 15 at 8:57 AM

DL

Dolores O'leary posted:

I want to send my condolences to Martha's family. I remember when I first joined Saint Peters many years ago she was one of the first ladies that welcomed me into the group. The story sorry to hear of her passing, and I send prayers and special thoughts to her family.

August 15 at 7:55 AM

MD

Midge Dinatale lit a candle in honor of Marlys.

Dear Cowan family, I am so sorry that I am unable to celebrate the life of your beautiful mother with you. I will be thinking of her and all of you and holding you in my prayers. Marlys was a beautiful soul and her loving kindness will never be forgotten. My deepest condolences, Midge DiNatale



August 15 at 5:46 AM



Memories only last if you share them

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



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