



## Marilyn A. Longenberger

October 25, 1935 - September 2, 2020

Our beloved wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Marilyn (Durr) Longenberger age 84, went home with the Lord peacefully in her sleep September 2, 2020. She was born October 25, 1935 to Forest and Osie (Smith) Durr in Decatur, Indiana. She married her high school sweetheart, Roger Longenberger.

Marilyn was a faithful wife. For thirty years Marilyn worked alongside her husband Roger at their successful enterprise, Gerber Furniture in Bluffton. After retiring in 2000, they passed the torch to their daughter Sara. For five years she and her daughter Debbie also operated The Sugar Plum Tree, a children's clothing store in Bluffton. Her many passions with Roger included her family, relaxing time at the lake, travel and golf. To her credit, Marilyn never teased Roger about her two career holes-in-one.

Marilyn was a dedicated mother. She taught us life-long lessons of grace, etiquette, style and perseverance which she maintained herself throughout her years. She loved to have fun and entertain and though we all had our separate, busy lives, she took great pride in preparing for and hosting all our holiday parties to make sure all her family had their favorite food and felt at home.

Marilyn was a passionate follower of Christ. She was a member of the First

United Methodist Church in Bluffton where she also served as a Trustee. Marilyn often enjoyed listening to and being inspired by gospel music.

Marilyn is survived by her husband, Roger; her daughters, Mrs. Robert (Debbie) Cress of Bluffton, Mrs. Michael (Cindy) Carr of Indianapolis, and Mrs. Brent (Sara) Imel of Bluffton; six grandchildren, Heather (Cress) Carlson, Ryan Carr, Drew Imel, Nicole (Cress) Sliger, Matt Carr and Nick Imel; and five great grandchildren, Colton, Jaxon, Lincoln, Adalynn and Lane. She was preceded in death by her parents and her dearly loved in-laws, Ernest and Pearl.

Public visitation will be held from 4 to 7 P.M. on Friday, (Sept. 4th.) at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.

All are welcome to join the family to celebrate Marilyn's life at 2 P.M. on Saturday, (Sept. 5, 2020) at the First United Methodist Church in Bluffton with Pastor Sherrie Drake officiating, with visitation for one hour prior to the service at the church. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church or Indiana Parkinson Foundation.

The safety of the family and all visitors is our utmost priority. For everyone's safety, we ask that you practice social distancing. Masks are required for visitation and for Marilyn's service at the church. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).



# Cemetery Details

## Elm Grove Cemetery

3500 East State Road 124  
Bluffton, IN

# Previous Events

## Visitation

SEP 4. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home  
308 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
<http://www.thomarich.com>

## Visitation

SEP 5. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
325 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN

## Service

SEP 5. 2:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church  
325 West Washington Street  
Bluffton, IN



# Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Marilyn A. Longenberger*



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**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - September 04, 2020 at 05:15 PM

BP

*What a beautiful tribute to Marilyn. It was very touching.*

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**Barb Preston** - September 05, 2020 at 12:41 PM

DW

*Roger and family, Our sincere thoughts and prayers are with you all in your sorrow.*

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**Doyle & Laura Werling** - September 16, 2020 at 03:46 PM



“ *Marilyn A. Longenberger*

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September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *These gracious and beautiful Mom's named Marilyn are difficult to lose. I remember Marilyn's smiling face, taking care of me at the Sugar Plum Tree, as well as Gerber Furniture. Whenever I ran into her, she always had a friendly word, and usually asked about my mom, as well. She was a Psi Ote with me, and her son-in-law, Brent, is my cousin--so we shared some family members. My favorite (although a little embarrassing for me,) memory of Marilyn shows her grace and kindness. I was at her home one time, for a meeting, and backed out of the driveway in the dark, and hit her mailbox. I am sure that I did some significant damage; but as much as I wanted to pay to help make it right, again, she laughed and said, "It is not a big deal, Debbie. Don't you worry about it!" She was kind, understanding and truly gracious! I am sure these qualities improved the lives of everyone she met! Our sincere sympathy in your loss. Joe and Debbie Elkins*

Debbie Elkins - September 07, 2020 at 10:48 AM



“ *Debbie Elkins lit a candle in memory of Marilyn A. Longenberger*



Debbie Elkins - September 07, 2020 at 10:21 AM



“ *Debbie Elkins purchased the Angel Wind Chime - Silver for the family of Marilyn A. Longenberger.*



Debbie Elkins - September 07, 2020 at 10:20 AM

TL

“ I regret that Twila and I will be unable to attend the services. I have many good memories of Aunt Marilyn when growing up and going to the Longenberger gatherings at Grandma Longenbergers and also through Gerber Furniture. One thing that stands out is that she always had a smile on her face.

We want to extend our deepest sympathy to all the family. May God grant you peace through this difficult time.

*Terry Longenberger*

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**Terry Longenberger** - September 05, 2020 at 01:01 PM

MH

“ A beautiful tribute to your dear mother!! You have our sympathy!!!



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**Mark and Susan Harris** - September 04, 2020 at 10:20 PM

LL

“ Love Ryan & Liz purchased the Sweet Solace Spray for the family of Marilyn A. Longenberger.



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**Love Ryan & Liz** - September 04, 2020 at 09:45 PM

SK

“ To all of Marilyn's family. So sorry to hear of your loss. Great memories will keep her with you.

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**Steve Kunkel** - September 04, 2020 at 03:36 PM



“ 59 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home** - September 04, 2020 at 01:30 PM

BE

“ *Marilyn was a most wonderful woman! We enjoyed and cherish all the years we had a relationship with her. Our thoughts and prayers are with Roger, Sara, and all the family.*  
*Walter and Bette Erxleben*

**Bette Erxleben** - September 04, 2020 at 12:24 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of *Marilyn A. Longenberger.*



September 04, 2020 at 11:14 AM

TF

“ *The Harold Arnold Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Marilyn A. Longenberger.*



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**The Harold Arnold Family** - September 04, 2020 at 09:05 AM

CO

“ *Roger, Sara, and Debbie and family: I was sorry to hear of Marilyn's passing . She will be missed, but you have treasured memories. I always enjoyed working with her at church. She was indeed a valuable part of our Trustee team. My thoughts and prayers will be with you.*  
*Pastor Cindy Osgood*

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**Cindy Osgood** - September 04, 2020 at 08:33 AM

MB

“ *So sorry to hear of Marilyn's passing. Heartfelt sympathy to all of the family from us both.*  
*Keeping you in our prayers.*  
*Bob and Marilyn Brandt*

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**Marilyn Brandt** - September 04, 2020 at 03:51 AM

RF

“ Roger - Debbie - Cindy - Sara and Families ...  
I Am So Very Sorry to Hear of Your Loss -  
WISHING YOU ALL ....  
PEACE for Your HEARTS --- COMFORT for Your SOULS  
and STRENGTH To ENDURE The Days Ahead ~  
<3 XOXOXOXOXOX <3

Marilyn ...  
THANK YOU for ALL of The Kindness You've Shown Thru the  
Years  
Rest in Peace ~ <3

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**Rosie Fairchild** - September 04, 2020 at 12:35 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the  
family of Marilyn A. Longenberger.



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September 03, 2020 at 07:46 PM

KB

“ Sara and family I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your sweet  
mother. I worked with Marilyn at the Dutch Mill back when I was in  
high school. She was always nice to work with. Keeping you all in  
my thoughts and prayers.

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**Kristine Bushee** - September 03, 2020 at 06:58 PM