



Mrs. Marlyn K. Koons

May 2, 1940 - April 4, 2021

Friends will be able to live stream the service using the Ossian First Presbyterian Church's Facebook page in the comfort of your home. The live streaming will begin 10 minutes prior to the start of the service (1:50 P.M.) on Sunday.

Marlyn K. Koons, born May 2, 1940, in Tocsin, Indiana, died Sunday, April 4, 2021, at Markle Health and Rehabilitation Nursing Home. Marlyn battled cancer in the same way she lived her life, with determination and courage. Daughter of Raymond "Daddy" Durr and Ellen Nash Durr, Marlyn spent her childhood in Tocsin and lived most of her adult life in Ossian, Indiana.

A 1958 graduate of Ossian High School, Marlyn was a 1962 Ball State graduate with a B.S. Major in English and a Minor in P.E. She earned her M.S. in Education at St. Francis. She began a long distinguished career in education teaching at Connersville High School for one year and then returning to Ossian in 1963 to teach in the Ossian school system and Norwell High School for 34 ½ years. Following her retirement in 1998, Marlyn continued her dedication to education at IPFW teaching English. To say that in the classroom, high school or college, she was a force to be reckoned with, would be a profound understatement. Her depth of knowledge was only matched by her enthusiasm for and love of teaching. A countless number of students reaped the benefits of sharing a classroom with Marlyn Koons.

Her reach extended beyond the classroom in her devotion to community service. She was a member of the Ossian Psi Otes, a past board member of Wells County Creative Arts, and board member and past president of Ossian Revitalization. Marlyn was an Elder of the Ossian Presbyterian Church, and served on the Session. Another of Marlyn's loves was the theater. She was tireless in her contributions to the Wells Community Theater serving as a director and an actor in numerous successful productions. Passionate about words, Marlyn loved reading them, writing them, and most definitely using them. She had an Emily Dickinson poem at the ready for nearly every occasion. In the past two years she was part of a group, which she assembled, writing a weekly column in the News-Banner called Here's the Thing.

These interests in education and community were surpassed only by her love and

devotion to her family. She is survived by son-in-law Ryan Chasey (Fort Wayne), sister Melanie Durr (Bluffton), and brothers David (Sally) Durr (St. Joseph, MI), and Douglas Durr (Bluffton). Marlyn was a beloved aunt to Sarah (Ryne) Phillips (Florida), Elizabeth (Tom) Perry (Illinois), Parr (Laura Zanotti) Durr (Indiana), Ti Durr (California), and Palmer Durr (Florida), and to her great-nieces Grace and Ellen Perry and great-nephews Harrison and Rhys Phillips.

Marlyn was preceded in death by her cherished daughter, Angela “Angie” Leanne Chasey on August 14, 2020.

No one encountered Marlyn without becoming a friend. She loved people, and that love and respect was reciprocated by innumerable friends. All who were privileged to “share some space and time” with Marlyn will remember her for so many things, least of which are her infectious, warm smile, and loving spirit. Family, friends, community, and students, we all are beneficiaries of Marlyn’s life. She is abundantly missed.

A gathering for family and friends will be Saturday, April 17, from 2-6 at Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life service will be Sunday, April 18 at 2 p.m. at the Ossian Presbyterian Church with Rev. Lyle Ewing officiating. Memorials may be made to Ossian Revitalization or Parkview Foundation, Angela Chasey Memorial Fund in support of cancer patients and their families.

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 the service. During the current guidelines, we are only allowed a limited number of people in the building at a time. We appreciate your cooperation and patience.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home. Friends can send online condolences to Marlyn’s family at www.thomarich.com.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Cemetery

701 S. Jefferson St.
Ossian, IN 46777
(260) 622-6526

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 17. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

Celebration of Life Service

APR 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

First Presbyterian Church in Ossian
123 S Jefferson Street
Ossian, IN 46777

Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mrs. Marlyn K. Koons*



Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - April 17, 2021 at 02:59 PM



“ *Mrs. Marlyn K. Koons*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *I had Ms Koons for several classes, and can't believe she put up with my disruptive behavior -- was one of my favorites ever - a truly loving and caring and competent person teacher*

Steve Lockwood - June 22, 2021 at 06:10 PM



“ *Mom shared loving memories of her cousin Marlyn and the fun she had during summers with the Bluffton kids. Our deepest sympathies to the Koons and Durr families. Marlyn will sure be missed by many. The Family of Judith Ann Nash*

Jody Wegrzynski - April 18, 2021 at 11:14 AM



“ *Such wonderful memories of a well loved Cousin. Never had enough time together but, although far too brief and never often enough, they are moments I'll always cherish and not forget. You are very much alive in me dear Marlyn*

Michael Nash - April 17, 2021 at 09:21 AM

LE

“ *Marlyn was a great organizer and so talented. The cabaret show she put together several years ago on Valentine's Day was outstanding! Her talents and enthusiasm for life will be greatly missed.*



Lynette esslinger - April 16, 2021 at 09:00 PM



“ 147 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home - April 16, 2021 at 01:18 PM



“ *Debbie Elkins purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Marlyn K. Koons.*



Debbie Elkins - April 16, 2021 at 10:37 AM



“ *Lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marlyn K. Koons*



Debbie Elkins - April 16, 2021 at 10:33 AM



“ Memories of Marlyn go back for years..she was my very young speech and drama teacher when I was a student at Norwell High School. Marlyn came back into my life as Angie's mom (Angie was my brother David's dear friend, and Ti's cousin and friend.) Marlyn was so involved with Wells Community Theater, helping out when Erin, Adam, Alison and Amy were so involved with many theater productions. Marlyn was always there to lend a hand, provide a quick costume change, wipe a tear, give wise council, or bandage a wound. I have special memories of "Quilters," which she directed at Norwell, in the early 90's. This production may have been her theatrical opus; but, wait, I am forgetting her memorable performance in "Steel Magnolias." I remember some great visits with Marlyn in our kitchen, reminiscing and laughing. She was and amazing friend with a twinkle in her eye, and a big smile, and a kind heart. We will miss her!

Debbie Elkins - April 16, 2021 at 10:29 AM

CH

“ Dear Durrs and Koons families, Dan and I were very saddened when we heard our friend and teacher had passed. I still remember when she sat calmly by when I had coffee delivered to me in her class by a certain ornery teacher's secretary! She also remained calm when a box was delivered to me in her class that was full of holes?? Such antics and I still passed her class! Years later I enjoyed her when she came to visit me at Ossian Post Office. She will be truly missed. God bless your family as you mourn your loved one.



Christine and Dan Hunt

Christine and Dan Hunt - April 12, 2021 at 07:47 PM

TW

“ I had Marlyn as a Speech/Drama teacher in the early days of Norwell HS. The class had few boys and I was assigned to be Henry VIII in an in-class play. Memorable. A few years later I became a Norwell HS staff member and taught along side Marlyn for over 20 yrs in the Language Arts Dept. Together we suffered through learning the new fangled mechanism called a computer. Eventually she became my role model for teaching American Literature. We ate many school lunches together where it was wonderful to laugh but learn her wisdom as well. Marlyn was a blessing to the community, and I was fortunate to be associated with her.

Our condolences to her family.

Terri and Gary Worden

Terri Worden - April 12, 2021 at 03:24 PM

GK

“ *My condolences to all in the family. There is simply no question that Marlyn will be missed by many. May the memories formed over the years help sustain all those who mourn during this difficult time.*

Gene Kyle - April 12, 2021 at 12:50 PM

GS

“ *Melanie, Dave and Doug, our condolences on the loss of your sweet sister. Sending prayers and hugs at this very sad time for your family.*

Gary & Suzie (Smekens) Studebaker - April 12, 2021 at 09:20 AM

ST

“ *Mrs. Marlyn Koons and I shared a love of writing and she led me on my journey through my classes and into a new future. She believed in each of her students and led them gently through our time at school and into our individual lives. She will be missed and she is loved.*

Sandra L Todd - April 10, 2021 at 12:08 PM

LH

“ *Marlyn's mind never stopped thinking of ways to improve the world in which she was so much a part. Working with her in Ossian Revitalization was such a great opportunity to get to see her in action as she would get a great idea and pursue it until it became a reality. Some thought she was a bit crazy with ideas such as the Ossian Doughnut Drop for New Year's but she never gave up and it became a fun event for several years. Her love of the theatre was always so evident as she pursued the production of "Steel Magnolias" in downtown Ossian and "It's a Wonderful Life". I know she would be the first to make sure things happen at Ossian's new amphitheater. We will miss relentless creative spirit.*

linda hambrick - April 09, 2021 at 11:01 AM

SB

“ *She was such a great teacher... loved when she would read to us.. she will be greatly missed... RIP..❤️❤️❤️*

sharon Billington - April 08, 2021 at 05:12 PM

DL

“ *What a great Teacher and inspiration. She had us read Moby Dick, by Herman Melville. To this day, I still recall her voice reciting the first line of the book... "Call me Ishmael"*

Daniel E. Lopez - April 06, 2021 at 09:48 PM

NM

“ *Marlyn was such a special person I can hardly begin to voice my feelings. She was totally forward thinking, creative, a wonderful friend, encouraging, caring, loving, welcoming, artistic, helpful, eclectic, did I say creative...and an all round great person. This is a loss for not only her family but for me personally and for the community as a whole.*

Natalie Milholland - April 06, 2021 at 09:28 PM