



Martha (Cline) Colson

March 30, 1921 - December 9, 2008

Martha Cline Colson, 87, of Bluffton died at 4:10 a.m. Tuesday, December 9, 2008 at River Terrace Health Center.

Born in Bluffton on March 30, 1921 to Lloyd M. and Lois Shirey Cline, she married U. Gordon "Bud" Colson on March 13, 1943 at Harvard Chapel in Cambridge, Mass. He preceded her in death in 1986.

Mrs. Colson was a 1939 graduate of Bluffton High School and a 1943 graduate of DePauw University where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

A 35-year resident of Paris, Ill., Mrs. Colson served as the Art Director for U.O. Colson Company, co-owner of Paragraphs Gift Shop and was responsible for implementing the first kindergarten into the Paris school system in 1950.

After moving to Bluffton in 1989, she was co-owner of The Kitchen Witch gift shop, member of Monday Bridge Club, the Tri Kappa Associate Chapter and the Bluffton First United Methodist Church. She was a volunteer at the Wells County Alternative School.

Surviving relatives include a daughter, Anne (John) Meo of Menomonee Falls,

Wis.; a son-in-law Don (Cheri) Skinner of Bluffton; 7 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; two nieces and a nephew.

Mrs. Colson was preceded in death by her daughter Sue C. Skinner; a brother William L. Cline; and an infant grandson.

Calling will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home. Funeral services will be officiated by Rev. Cindy Osgood at 10:30 a.m. Friday at the First United Methodist Church. There will be calling one hour prior to the service at the church. Entombment will take place in the Cline family mausoleum located in Elm Grove Cemetery, Bluffton.

Preferred memorials are to the Wells County YMCA.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 11. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich,Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

Service

DEC 12. 10:30 AM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
325 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN

Tribute Wall



“ *Martha (Cline) Colson*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *Anne, Your mom, as well as your dad, contributed so much to the vitality of the Paris community with their entrepreneurial and civic spirit. You are in my thoughts, and you can be assured that our mothers are with us forever.*

Nancy (Riedell) Conner##imported-begin##*Nancy (Riedell) Conner*##imported-end##

December 15, 2008 at 12:53 AM



“ *Ann*

I am so sorry about the loss of your mother. Please know you are in my thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.##imported-begin##*Judy (Alexander) Smart*##imported-end##

December 12, 2008 at 01:26 PM



“ *Anne and family,*

Sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. My condolences to the family.

Nancy##imported-begin##*Nancy Martin-Hires(Watson)*##imported-end##

December 12, 2008 at 12:25 PM



“ Anne, Martha had this wonderful way about her of teaching you something whether you wanted to learn or not. She could get you to pick yourself up "a notch or two" and you were glad you did. It was my privilege to have known her. My sincere sympathies to you.
Sue Dian###imported-begin##Sue Dian###imported-end##

December 11, 2008 at 10:01 PM



“ I worked at Paragraphs Gift Shop for Mrs. Colson and just loved her and Bud so much. She was instrumental in getting me to my nursing career of which I am still going strong. My love to all. Jo Martin (my mother) whom also worked at the shop, sends her condolences,
Pam###imported-begin##Pamela S. (Martin) Burton###imported-end##

December 11, 2008 at 03:11 PM



“ Sincere condolences to Martha's family. I first met Martha when my late husband and I moved to Paris in the late 1950's.

Martha was such an asset to this community through the years she resided here. A very involved and gracious lady - her memory will live on in the hearts and minds of many.###imported-begin##Peg Giesler###imported-end##

December 11, 2008 at 10:54 AM



“ Anne, my thoughts and prayers are with you. It is at a time like this that our memories become so clear. Time seems to have flown by. All the memories of growing up, on Court street and Sulphur Springs, your grandparents, going to the lake in the summer seem like yesterday. Memories can be such a comfort. We will all miss your Mom.##imported-begin##Cathy Cline Swain##imported-end##

December 10, 2008 at 08:05 PM



“ I will miss my Aunt Martha. She was a rock, always there when you needed someone or some information. Somehow all the Colsons and Andrews were 'legal pad lovers'....but this one liked graph paper!!....too much for me! It was a long journey and I believe she enjoyed it all, until the end. Her journey is over and she is now in peace...and I am thankful for that. Say hi to mom and dad and Uncle Bud. When I get there, I'll bring new pencils and pads! Until then....love##imported-begin##Kyle Andrews##imported-end##

December 10, 2008 at 07:46 PM



Kyle, I am trying to track down Martha's daughter Anne. I used to be a Paragraph's Girl in the '70s . Can you help me reach her?

Walker Laurel - August 25, 2025 at 03:08 PM



“ Anne: I began my day today thinking back on all the ways my life has been influenced by your mother (and dad). From being on the Junior Hangar Board when your mother was on the "Senior" Board, to being a delivery boy for Paragraphs (and getting to drive your mother's nice cars), to your parents influence in my choosing DePauw, to their presence at our wedding in Aiken in April of 1981 (and your dad's visit to Augusta National the following Monday), to visits in Aiken, Skidaway Island, and Paris. I always said your mother could have been chairman of General Motors with her organizational and leadership skills. GM needs her now! She was a master at putting people together and making things happen. More than anything, I am celebrating the special bond between our families and the friendship and hospitality always generously given by your parents. She will always be a part of my life and I am grateful to have known her. My deepest sympathy to you, John, Don, and the grandchildren. Love, "Tuck"###imported-begin##Bill Tucker###imported-end##

December 10, 2008 at 05:12 PM



“ To Mr. and Mrs. Meo and family,

Please accept my sincere sympathy for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Donna Willits###imported-begin##Donna Willits###imported-end##

December 10, 2008 at 03:25 PM



“ Anne and John:

Elmer and I have you both in our thoughts and prayers at the loss of your Mother, Anne.

I have so many memories of growing up on Court Street and running in and out of each other's houses playing as children.

You have both been so wonderful in caring for "Aunt Martha". You have many friends who are thinking of you at this time and we hope that will bring you some comfort.

Love you bunches, Carolyn and Elmer##imported-begin##Carolyn Cline Knight##imported-end##

December 10, 2008 at 09:13 AM