



Irene Margaret Couch

June 19, 1930 - February 27, 2026

Irene M. Couch age 95 passed away February 27, 2026 at Presbyterian Homes of Bloomington.

Proceeded in death by her parents, 8 siblings, daughter Terrie Ann, son-in-laws James Kadlec and Gerald Peterson, and grandson Daniel Peterson. Survived by brother Alfred Houdek, 9 children Garry Couch, Paula Couch, Kim Couch, Carmen Peterson, Kevin Couch (Susan), Lisa O'Neill (Patrick), Mary Couch Hollermann (partner Kevin Berg), John Couch (Marla), Jill Carey (Rodney). Many grandchildren, great grandchildren and great great grandchildren. Many nieces and nephews.

Born the 10th child of Wences (Jim or W.V.) and Elizabeth Houdek in Voss, North Dakota on June 19, 1930. Her mother died when Irene was nine years old. Her Aunt Agness Houdek came to live with the family until W.V. remarried when Irene was ten.

The family moved to Mahanomen, MN when Irene was 12. Her sister Nora asked if Irene could come to Portland, OR and babysit for Fae while Nora worked in the shipyard during World War II. With Dad's approval she rode on the train alone to Portland and not only stayed the summer but attended her sophomore year of high school and the following summer. Nora and Glen along with Grace and Kenny drove back to North Dakota to "return Irene".

They landed in Voss on V-J day - the end of the war! All the adults went to Minto to celebrate (there were bars there). Irene stayed home to babysit her nieces and nephews - big bummer! After graduating from Mahnommen High School she moved to Grand Forks and worked at the First National Bank.

On August 16, 1948 she married Richard Couch. After 10 children and an advanced case of alcoholism they were divorced in 1972. She spent 6 years waitressing and then went to Technical School and following that worked for Chrene Contracting Corporation until retirement in 1995. She also worked at the Observatory Club for the North Stars during many of the years.

Her retirement was spent helping out family and attending sports games of grandchildren, plus working for the Cherne Foundation from 1995 to 2003 and volunteering at Cornerstone from 1997 to 2009. She served as a Eucharist Minister, volunteered at funeral luncheons, was a committee member of Families Moving Forward, Adult Faith Formation and other various church programs and committees. She played Bridge and Bocce Ball and became a staunch Curves member.

In 2017 she moved into Presbyterian Homes of Bloomington, assisted living. She enjoyed all the services they provided from meals, day trips, bingo, concerts, onsite beauty salon, to hosting family gatherings in the Town Center Lounge and feeling safe and cared for by all the staff. She was a fan favorite, greeting people with that big smile, ease of laughter and a bit of sass.

Memorial service Friday, April 24, 2026 at 11 AM, with visitation at 10 AM, at St. Edwards Catholic Church, 9401 Nesbitt Ave. S. Bloomington, MN 55437. Luncheon following service, followed by private burial at the Peace Garden.

If you wish to honor her, memorials can be donated to Cornerstone, cornerstonemn.org, Covenant House covenanthouse.org.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 24. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Edward's Catholic Church
9401 Nesbitt Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55437

Memorial Service

APR 24. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Edward's Catholic Church
9401 Nesbitt Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55437

Tribute Wall

KB

“ Kevin B. purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Irene Margaret Couch.



Kevin B. - April 21 at 12:12 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Irene Margaret Couch.



April 21 at 10:03 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Irene Margaret Couch.

April 21 at 10:03 AM

CP

“ Irene was a wonderful volunteer at Cornerstone. She was thoughtful, compassionate, and would help in way she could. We were lucky to work with her and grateful she chose to share her time and spirit with us. --Courtney Poja, Cornerstone

Courtney Poja - March 31 at 06:28 PM



“ A grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Irene Margaret Couch.

March 17 at 10:47 AM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Irene Margaret Couch.



March 12 at 09:37 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Irene Margaret Couch.



March 09 at 10:06 AM

MA

“ Mom was quite the matriarch. Strong, caring, firm, loving, compassionate. She was a teacher and cheerleader. She thoroughly loved watching 4 of her daughters play on the same softball team and won fan of the year

Mom may have had 10 children by birth, but she had many others that she adopted an along the way. Mom was quite the teacher, not by trade, but by the way, she walked her talk and led by example. She wanted us to learn from our mistakes and was there with a hug and wisdom. She wanted us to figure things out.. She’s also a woman that walked by faith. Many of my friends thought we were lucky because she didn’t ground us. No, she would often have us decide on a just punishment that would fit the crime. Always teaching. She would tell us later that we were often harder on ourselves than she would have been, and she didn’t believe in grounding because it was punishing herself! Lastly, mom I’m still sorry that I jumped a curb and bent the axle on your car on a snowy Friday night getting you ice cream and you had to miss part of Dallas. I’m blessed to have had you and for so long and now it’s Terries turn. Two days before you passed and no longer could talk you were still in there. I cried and your facial expression said it’s ok and you put your weak arm around me. Rest in peace and enjoy your next ride. Mary

mary - March 05 at 01:31 PM

EO

That’s beautiful Mary

Elizabeth Oneill - March 06 at 08:06 AM

GC

She was simply a good and wonderful human being.

Garry Couch - March 08 at 11:03 AM