



Marlene Bentley Teien

June 30, 1936 - February 20, 2021

Obituary for Marlene Bentley Teien

Marlene Brandt Teien of Maple Grove, MN, age 84, passed away on 2/20/21 in Maple Grove. She was a popular retired kindergarten teacher and customer service provider who developed dementia late in life. Survived by her loving husband Larry Teien, their daughters Kari Pontinen (Gary) and Juli Teien, granddaughters Heidi and Jill Pontinen, and sister Madeleine Frandsen, Eau Claire, WI. Preceded in death by her mother Lois May Conklin Brandt (1908-1988) and beloved father Arthur Erwin Brandt (1906-1966). Marlene was born in Cumberland, WI, on June 30, 1936. She worked part time at her family's businesses around Cumberland including a tavern and roller skating rink, restoring the Cumberland Golf Club after it was closed during World War II, and a drive-in café and gas station. She also worked part time at the 3M company plant in Cumberland.

Marlene was a kindergarten teacher in Bloomington's Washburn Elementary School when she earned a national teaching award from Ashland Oil Company of Kentucky. After Marlene retired from teaching in 1998, she provided customer service at five Washburn-McReavy Funeral Chapels. She also volunteered in many organizations. She served on the Board of the Retired Educators Association. At Oak Grove Presbyterian Church in Bloomington she taught youth members, served in the nursery, and was a

deacon helping senior church members. Larry and Marlene were interpreters at the Japanese Garden of Como Park, St. Paul for 10 years. They volunteered for 20 years at Book 'Em, a popular used book sale benefiting the Bloomington Police Department. They participated at the Christmas Coat and Toy Distribution programs of the Salvation Army around the Twin Cities as well as at the Fare For All discount food sales at Bloomington's Creekside Community Center.

Marlene was encouraged to be a sports fan by her father who played hockey at St. Paul Central High School. She loved to cheer for the Minnesota Vikings, Minnesota Lynx, Wisconsin Badger football, Minnesota Gopher football and the men's and women's Gopher basketball teams. One of her favorite things to do was become a marching band groupie of the Champlin Park Marching Rebels. Larry and Marlene followed their granddaughters to all their events throughout Minnesota and ones in Chicago and St. Louis, too!

Marlene will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. There will be an immediate private burial service and a public celebration of her life at a later date.

Cemetery Details

Acacia Park Cemetery

2151 Pilot Knob Road
Mendota Heights, MN 55120

Tribute Wall



“ *We slowly lost our mom the last several years of her life due to dementia.
Her warmth and great sense of humor remained.*

Her smile brightened up any place and she was a real pleasure to be around. A real strength she possessed was that of showing genuine concern for others and always remembering people's birthdays. She was especially good at inquiring about people's lives. If you knew her she'd ask about your family members and the goings on in your life. She made sure to always follow up the next time she saw someone. She was generous in gift giving and took pride in giving wonderful gifts to families of newborns. Her thoughtfulness was enduring.

She was a wonderful kindergarten teacher of which I witnessed firsthand. I learned a few techniques from her on how to work with challenging kids. She was a natural.

We were glad her suffering was over but miss all the wonderful qualities mentioned above. The world is less bright and warm without her.

Juli Teien - January 26, 2023 at 01:01 AM

KP

“ I will miss my mom's ready smile and the little twinkle of mischief in her eyes. She taught me to ask people how they are and really listen to what they have to say. She was a hard worker and I was so proud of her and all that she accomplished.

She didn't know who I was for the last few years of her life but there was still a warmth and kindness from her. That was in her soul and it stayed there as she battled the terrible disease of dementia.

She has left a great legacy for me and my girls to follow. I will miss her so much for the rest of my life. But I take comfort she is no longer suffering.

Kari Pontinen

Kari Pontinen - February 24, 2021 at 10:49 PM



Very well said Kari.

Juli Teien - January 26, 2023 at 12:45 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marlene Bentley Teien.



February 24, 2021 at 11:08 AM