



## Marilyn J. McCallum

April 7, 1926 - January 30, 2022

Marilyn McCallum passed away peacefully surrounded by family on January 30, 2022. Marilyn Joy Libke was born April 7, 1926, in Two Rivers, WI to parents Irmajean Helen Karnopp Libke and Werner Jurgen Libke whose ancestors immigrated from Schleswig-Holstein. She did her primary schooling in New Holstein and Fond du Lac schools.

Marilyn was always active, enjoying ice and roller skating, biking, swimming and tree climbing in her youth. "In retrospect," she recalled, "I think I was a bit of a handful. And probably not a little bit of a spoiled brat!". She was an only child until age nine when her sister, and best friend, Margie was born.

Marilyn was an extrovert, easily making friends. Even at 95 years old she loved meeting new people and could charm even the crustiest of strangers! She loved to cook, work in her garden, and was an avid reader with a life-long love of mystery books, especially the Fu Manchu detective series when younger.

Marilyn was a talented musician and artist. She played the alto clarinet for both New Holstein and Fond du Lac school bands. She was an accomplished pianist. And she was the first violinist for the Fond du Lac Symphony Orchestra, led by Maestro Luigi Lombardi. When she graduated from L.P. Goodrich High School in 1943, she had the distinct honor of being the violin soloist at the graduation ceremony. She was awarded a musical scholarship to Miami University in Oxford, OH but declined it, choosing instead to support the war efforts with a job in Washington D.C. At seventeen years old, Marilyn took

the train east and began working for the F.B.I. as a fingerprint interpreter. During this time, she was chosen to greet First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and provide a tour of where the “common folk” lived.

After a year working for the F.B.I. Marilyn returned to Wisconsin and enrolled in the University of Wisconsin’s Music and Journalism program. After a year, she again returned to Washington to earn another year’s college tuition. This time, she worked as a “government girl” in the procuring section of the War Department inside the Pentagon. She was in the Pentagon’s central courtyard when Generals McArthur and Eisenhower were paraded around the area in a homecoming celebration.

When the war ended, Marilyn returned to the Midwest, working in the naval offices at the Great Lakes training station. On February 21, 1948 she eloped with her sweetheart, George Duncan McCallum. They married in Mason City, Iowa. Both sports fans, the newlyweds attended a UW vs Iowa basketball game in lieu of taking a honeymoon. Eventually, they settled in Fond du Lac, raising four children and spending the years leading scout troops, coaching little leagues, attending school activities, family camping trips, and summers spent at their cottage on Berry Lake in Cecil, WI. Marilyn worked 17 years at Sears-Roebuck and then another 17 years for First Wisconsin (now US Bank). She and George were privileged to have traveled throughout Europe, Nova Scotia and the Virgin Islands – as well as throughout the United States.

Marilyn is survived by her sister Margie Eberhart (Bill), sons Governor Scott McCallum (Laurie), John McCallum (Sara) and Charles McCallum, daughter Ann Blamey (Richard), eight grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren.

There are no plans for a funeral, but friends can celebrate Marilyn’s love for reading by making a contribution to the Fond du Lac Public Library (in memory of Marilyn McCallum), 32 Sheboygan Street, Fond du Lac, WI 54935, or online at [www.fdlpl.org](http://www.fdlpl.org).

# Tribute Wall



“ Marilyn with all the love that surrounded you in life, may you take it with you, and know the love won't die. You will be missed by Michael and Georgiana Enfelt.

Georgiana Enfelt - February 07, 2022 at 06:37 PM

BR

“ Marilyn was a gracious lady with a great laugh . Just thinking of her now puts a smile on my heart.  
My sincerest sympathy and prayers to the McCallum family.

Barb Rickmeyer

Barb Rickmeyer - February 06, 2022 at 09:25 PM

PC

“ I looked forward to seeing Marilyn, I'd ask her opinion of things knowing she'd have an opinion and share it. Frequently Marilyn's opinion would improve my opinion!

Paul Cunningham - February 06, 2022 at 08:41 PM

JH

“ Our condolences to Scott, Ann, John and Chuck. So sorry to hear the news of your mother. She was a great friend to my mother for many years, My first touch with your family was with your Dad, our mailman on 14th Street. Your parents were such great friends with my mother and father enjoyed their company and friendships for many years. The best memories are from many years of being neighbors at Berry Lake. John & Sigrid Holman

John Holman - February 06, 2022 at 11:53 AM

TP

“ Mike and I first met Marilyn and George when John invited us to his family cottage, back in the day. I remember Marilyn's kindness then and all the times thereafter. It was that twinkle in her eyes whenever she smiled that I will especially remember. Marilyn was a wonderful human being, and as such, we celebrate her life and the legacy she and George left for all of us to enjoy.



---

**Tina and Mike Potter** - February 06, 2022 at 09:51 AM

DG

“ My condolences to Scott, John, Charles, and Ann. Your mom's life story is fascinating. And all of your lives are a testimony to the positive influence she undoubtedly had.

---

**Dan Grangaard** - February 04, 2022 at 08:18 PM

CW

“ My deepest sympathies to the McCallum family (former 2nd St. 3rd St. neighbors years ago)

---

**Chuck Weber** - February 04, 2022 at 11:45 AM

VD

“ John, Sara and family-caring thoughts and prayers are with all of you as you cherish your memories of your mother. Our deepest sympathy to you. Don and Vonni Dunn

---

**vonni dunn** - February 04, 2022 at 10:13 AM

CA

“ Ann and Scott, so sorry to read about the the loss of your Mom. It sounds as though she led an exciting and fulfilling life. Charlie and Marilyn Averbeck.

Charlie Averbeck - February 03, 2022 at 08:16 PM

HB

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Heather B - February 03, 2022 at 03:23 PM

RD

*I'll never forget Marilyn. We moved to Fond du lac and lived two houses away from the McCallums. Ann and I became close friends and I was always welcome in their house. Every time I saw Mrs. McCallum anywhere she was always kind and interested in me. She was beautiful and always had a smile on her face. She will be missed*

Rosemary DesisLes - February 04, 2022 at 09:13 AM

AG

*Scott and Ann, Your dad was "our" mailman when we lived on Third St. We were in high school with you.*

*Your lives reflect the best of your mom and dad. You made them very proud. Our condolences,*

*Ann Sonnenberg Galle and Patricia Sonnenberg Silah*

Ann Galle - February 11, 2022 at 04:28 PM

HB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



---

**Heather B** - February 03, 2022 at 03:21 PM

HB

“ 3 files added to the album Family of Marilyn "Nana" McCallum



---

**Heather B** - February 03, 2022 at 03:19 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



---

**Jen Odegard** - February 03, 2022 at 03:18 PM