



Clare Wilber

March 21, 1928 - July 7, 2017

Clare Wilber, age 89, of Fort Collins, Colorado died on July 7, 2017. Visitation will be held at 6:00 pm and a vigil service at 7:00 pm Thursday, July 13th at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Mass of Christian Burial is at 10:00 am Friday, July 14th at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Interment will be held later in the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne, Massachusetts where her late husband Charles is buried.

Clare Marie O'Keefe was born on March 21, 1928 to Thomas and Kathleen O'Keefe in Denver, Colorado. After growing up in Colorado and graduating from Loretto Heights College in Denver, Clare left for New York to attend Fordham University on a scholarship, eventually earning her MS in Biological Sciences. It was also there that she met her husband, Charles Grady Wilber, better known as Charlie.

Clare and Charlie married in June of 1952 in Denver and she then became mother to his two sons and daughter from a previous marriage. Prior to meeting Clare, Charlie had served in the Air Force during WWII and was widowed when his previous wife passed away. After marrying, he and Clare went on to have four more children together, two daughters and two sons. The house was full and the family joyful. They moved back to Colorado in 1967, but their love for the northeast remained. They spent many summers at their cottage in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Lots of fond memories were made at that cottage with family, friends, and the lovely sights and sounds of the Cape.

Clare's keen mind and love of biology were an asset to her when she became a professor at Loyola College in Baltimore, Maryland, but her talents didn't stop there. Clare's true passion was music; she actually had perfect pitch, a rare gift. Besides being a music teacher, Clare managed the Fort Collins Symphony for 16 years. She also lent her musicianship to the choir at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Fort Collins. A devoted member of the St. Joseph community, Clare will be missed by those who looked forward to seeing her at Mass, singing with her in the choir, and sharing with her in their faith.

Clare is survived by her daughters, Maureen Wilber of Bremerton, WA; Kathleen (Bob) Steinbaugh of Huntington Beach, CA; and Aileen Chaltain of Hanover, NH; and sons, Charlie Wilber of Fort Collins; Michael (Ann Marie) Wilber of Wilmington, DE; and John Wilber of Kittridge, CO; grandchildren, Ariadne Wilber; Christine Steinbaugh and Michael Steinbaugh; Kelly Ann Wilber and Matthew Wilber; Kathleen Wilber and Adam Wilber,

Grady Chaltain and Tori Chaltain; great grandchildren Carter, Alina, Marina, Ben, and Mikey. She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Grady Wilber, and infant son, Thomas Grady.

Join us in remembering Clare – her smile, her voice, her mentorship, and her love. In lieu of flowers, please send donations in Clare's memory to Fort Collins Symphony or Colorado State University Music Department.

Events

JUL **Visitation** 06:00PM - 07:00PM

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St. Joseph Catholic Church

300 W Mountain Ave, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80521

JUL **Vigil** 07:00PM - 08:00PM

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St. Joseph Catholic Church

300 W Mountain Ave, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80521

JUL **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM - 11:00AM

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St. Joseph Catholic Church

300 W Mountain Ave, Fort Collins, CO, US, 80521

Comments



“ All my love and prayers to one remarkable women whom I was truly blessed to have come into my life and had the pleasure of working with her brother Fr. Martin O'Keefe. My life was truly enriched. Affectionately, Joni Hosty

Joni Hosty - July 18, 2017 at 09:36 AM



“ Clare was really what we all should be - true, honest, full of love and goodness and ready to be there no matter what. If everyone in the world were just a bit more like Clare, we'd all be better off. That's not an exaggeration. Although much of my contact with Clare was a by-product of her friendship with my parents, even as a kid, I could feel her warmth, care and commitment to all of us. She was the kind of person who'd be your friend for life, and she literally was to us. As long as I knew her - 50 years, she called me 'dear.' I always loved that. She was always very interested in what was going on with me - it was never about her. I know I am just one of many who will miss everything she was, gave and did, for her family, her friends, for the arts, cultural and musical community in Fort Collins, for her Bridge buddies, her students, her fellow parishioners at St. Joe's...the list goes on and on. I will remember Clare as a woman of immense generosity, sincere caring and commitment to those she loved and to all that she did. She was the real 'dear' and I feel so fortunate to have known her.
Lisa Schwartz

Lisa Schwartz - July 15, 2017 at 09:05 PM



“ Clare listening to my awful singing and helping me audition for choir. Her listening to my fears and failures. Her sneaking a smoke break out back of Woods Hole cabin. Asking my mom if we girls should wear hose to Easter Mass on the steps of St.Joe's. Bridge games, holiday parties. Her warmth and creative intelligence was a guide to me what a truly great woman could be. Thanks Clare always,
Michele McClellan

Michele McClellan - July 13, 2017 at 06:45 PM



“ Clare will be missed in Woods Hole. A dear friend and comfort to me years ago as a new bride far from home. I will miss her piano music drifting through the air. What a pillar of strength and comfort. My love and prayers to the family,
Sabrina Burbanck

Sabrina Burbanck - July 12, 2017 at 07:09 PM



“ Prayers to the Wilber family,
Clare was such a warm, loving and intelligent woman, I am a better person from knowing her. Her love for her family and kindness towards others impacted me deeply. I love the fact that she kept giving music lessons up until her last week of life! Within the last month she shared her deep faith in Christ with me, I will never forget that conversation! Please know you are in my prayers, I know there will be many memories to hold onto.
Kathy Moddelmog

Kathy Moddelmog - July 12, 2017 at 11:01 AM



“ Chrissy lit a candle in memory of Clare Wilber



Chrissy - July 11, 2017 at 10:37 AM