



Margaret Ann Wombacher

July 27, 1936 - October 4, 2017

Margaret Wombacher loved to travel, and she always did it her way. Her final journey was no different: she went out of this world and into the next one on her own terms, surrounded by her family and at the home of her daughter Julie. She brought her family together to care for her in her final days. At 2:40 a.m. on October 4, 2017, Margaret took her last breath.

Margaret Ann Haugh was born in Mankato, Minnesota on July 27, 1936. She was the eighth of thirteen children born to William and Eldora Haugh of Easton, Minnesota. From birth, Margaret found many ways to distinguish herself; she was the first in her family to be born in a hospital. She was proud of her large family and often repeated her mother's mantra that no matter how many mouths she had to feed, there was always "room for one more at the table."

She paid her tuition at Mankato State University by working a summer job at the Green Giant factory; after college she moved to Colorado to teach high school in Grand Junction. Inspired by her hero JFK, Margaret applied to the Peace Corps. When she learned she would be serving in Cameroon, it did not matter that she was unsure where it was; her adventurous spirit far outweighed her need for convenience and familiarity. Margaret's international teaching career had begun.

In 1963, she met the love of her life, Karl Wombacher. They married in Cameroon in September 1964, and returned to the United States in 1965. Margaret has remarked that the only way for Karl to recoup the money she had won from him during their weekend poker games was to marry her. When their Peace Corps service was complete, they moved back to Minnesota and welcomed 2 daughters: Julie Marie and Teresa Clare. Karl and Margaret shared their love for music, literature, good food, and international travel for 21 happy years.

In 1967 the couple moved to Jeddah, Saudi Arabia with their two young daughters. There, they welcomed a third daughter, Leila Christine. Margaret taught at an international school in Jeddah from 1968 until 1978, when she and Karl chose Fort Collins as their new hometown. Following Karl's death in 1985, Margaret continued to live and teach overseas, working first in Korea, then Kuwait and Thailand, before "retiring" in 1997. After permanently resettling in Fort Collins, Margaret worked as a long-term substitute teacher in the Poudre School District, where she continued to touch the lives of many students, teachers, neighbors, family, and friends.

Margaret is preceded in death by her parents, her husband of 21 years, Karl Frederick Wombacher of Proctor, Minnesota, and her siblings Raymond Haugh, William Haugh, Harold Haugh, Maryce Murry, and Sr. Eileen Haugh. She is survived by her daughters Julie Quihuiz (Jan Krucky) of Fort Collins; Terry Thomas (Wendell) of Salt Lake City, Utah; and Leila Knox (Charlie) of Albany, California. Margaret also leaves behind eight grandchildren: Erica Quihuiz; Samuel, Seth, Jonah, and Jaycey Thomas; and Hazel, Karl, and Naomi Knox.

Margaret will be remembered for her feisty personality and lively social gatherings as well as her love of travel, reading, music, Harley-Davidson motorcycles, crossword puzzles, and Garrison Keillor's Prairie Home

Companion. Equally important to her were her Catholic faith, her lifelong commitment to the Democratic party, and the Colorado Rockies. Her love of baseball was instilled by her father when she was a young girl. When she was not riding the Trans-Siberian Railway or flying over Venezuela's Angel Falls, she was running 5K races in Fort Collins or hosting large gatherings in her backyard. As a middle school English teacher, she was small in stature but a big influence in hundreds of students' lives. Her co-workers still talk about her famous "I Survived September" parties, her volunteerism, and the high expectations, no-excuses attitude she had for her students, her family, and most of all herself. Margaret taught us how to live well and do scary things, despite uncertainty and fear. If this testimony lives up to her high expectations (no grammar, spelling, or punctuation errors), we think she would be proud.

Margaret's travels brought her around the world, and she collected friends in every country. She actively maintained those friendships when she retired, hosting visitors and family year round while finding time to work, volunteer, travel, and keep up with Jeopardy and politics. We would like to thank all the friends who remained loyal to Margaret through their visits, calls, emails, prayers, cards and letters. A teacher to the end, Margaret chose to donate her body to medical research. There will be a memorial mass for her at St. Joseph's Catholic Church on Oct. 20 at 2:00 p.m. followed by a celebration of her life (location TBA). In lieu of flowers, we ask that you donate in her name to the Alzheimer's Association or the Rescue Mission of Fort Collins.

Previous Events

Service

OCT **20**. 2:00 PM (MT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
300 W Mountain Ave
Fort Collins, CO 80521
<https://www.stjosephfc.org/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Margaret Ann Wombacher*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Margaret was a dear and loyal friend to so many -- and I count myself blessed to have been among them. We shared many long conversations and fun times together while living and traveling abroad in Saudi Arabia, Korea, Thailand and throughout the USA and comforted each other after the death of our respective spouses. Margaret's love of, and pride in, her daughters and their families was beautiful and inspiring. Although petite in stature, her passion for living life fully -- with enthusiasm and courage -- was an inspiration to all who knew her. Certainly she enriched my life, and that of countless others, with her friendship. Rest in peace dear Margaret.*

Sharon Rushcamp - October 18, 2017 at 01:13 PM



“ *Per & Hiroko purchased the Amazing Arboricola for the family of Margaret Ann Wombacher.*



Per & Hiroko - October 14, 2017 at 09:58 PM

LH

“ My sincere condolences to Julie, Terry, Leila and families on the loss of their dear mother Margaret Wombacher. I kept in touch with her life through our mutual and her life long friends the Speakes. As we say in Arabic *البقية في حياتكم و الله يرحمها* Al baqieh fi hayyatikum wa Allah Yirhamha. May you and the grandchildren live the long life she bequeathed to you from her remaining years (Translation) and may Allah be merciful to her spirit. Rituals give us strength when we face life's mysteries. Memories of her life will sustain you and words or events from the past will bring smiles and laughter again. I believe memories of our departed ones are the eternal life we are promised. *سلامات* Peace/Blessings.

leila hijab - October 08, 2017 at 11:19 AM



“ Margaret and I became friends while we were in college at Mankato State in the late 50s. We reunited one day here in Fort Collins while registering our 15 yr old daughters for softball at the City rec office. Margaret got our friendship going again because she recognized my voice! I thought that she was unique and her life amazing. She was a faithful friend to people all over the world and I got a chance to meet many of them while they were in Fort Collins visiting her. For many years, Margaret blessed a lot of Christmases and 4th of Julys for me and my family. I know she will be missed.
~Ann Ruddy

Ann Ruddy - October 06, 2017 at 10:39 PM

MD

“ The world is a better place because Margaret was in it. Rest in peace, my dear sister-in-law. Oh, and say hi to Karl for me.

Mary (Wombacher) Dankanis - October 06, 2017 at 09:00 PM

WT

“ 1 file added to the album *Margaret with the Thomas Family*



Wendell Thomas - October 06, 2017 at 08:12 PM

WT

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Wendell Thomas - October 06, 2017 at 08:09 PM