



Marcia Lee Welch

January 10, 1934 - February 2, 2023

Marcia Lee Welch, 89, died at her home in Kearney on February 2, 2023. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 25 at 1 PM at the O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be sent to the University of Nebraska Kearney Foundation and designated for the Welch Family Scholarship Fund. O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Home is serving the family. Condolences may be shared online at www.osrfh.com.

Marcia was born on January 10, 1934 in Burwell, Nebraska to Wilbert L. and Shirley M. Zorn. She spent her early years in Burwell and Ashland and later graduated from Gothenburg High School. She attended Kearney State Teachers College where she was a cheerleader, a member of the band, Sigma Tau Delta Sorority, YMCA Zip Club, and Naiads, the women's synchronized swimming team. Here she earned an Elementary Teaching Certificate and met the love of her life, Donovan L. Welch. They married on June 14, 1953 in Gothenburg. A wife, homemaker, neighbor and friend, Marcia lived in the Kearney family home for 63 years.

Surviving is her sister-in-law, Sue (Gene) Fisher of Omaha, NE; daughters Shannon (Paul) Vesely of Ottumwa, IA; Timaree (Steve) Yost of Omaha, NE; Erin (Dennis) Lane of Blair, NE; Kael Sagheer of Omaha, NE; sons Chad Welch of the Greater Washington D.C. area and Keir Welch of Fargo, ND.

Also surviving are her 19 grandchildren, 17 great grandchildren and 1 great great grandchild.

A gracious host and exceptional listener, Marcia opened her home to family, friends, students, and UNK visitors for decades. Over the course of her life, she faithfully corresponded with countless people whom she loved and encouraged. As a poet's wife, she was her husband's inspiration, as well as his best and most trusted reader. Marcia and her husband, Don, shared a special love for Nebraska and the migrating sandhill cranes.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

FEB **25**. 1:00 PM (CT)

O'Brien Straatmann Redinger Funeral Homes and Cremations

4115 Ave N

Kearney, NE 68847

(308) 234-3500

info@osrfh.com

<https://www.osrfh.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Marcia Lee Welch.*



February 23, 2023 at 08:33 PM



“ *I am feeling sad about this and wish that I had got over my Thoreau based recluse instinct and I felt presumptive that maybe Marcia didn't really mean she was my poetry mom. I wish I had visited as I did not except for way back when invited to Don's retirement party attended .by a lot of people including Gene Fendt.*

Janelle Masters - February 13, 2023 at 07:33 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Marcia Lee Welch.*



February 11, 2023 at 08:07 PM

HL

“ I met Marcia in 2003 when I became her paper carrier. When she discovered that I was saving all my tips to buy picture books for my kids, she and Don sent a \$50 tip to the Hub with their bill, and left me a stack of picture books that had belonged to their own children. Their kindness and generosity didn't end there, but continued to fund my kids' adventures, in reading and in real life, and my friendship with Marcia continued even after Don passed. She was always happy to see me when I would stop by for a visit, and she gave the most excellent advice. I will miss her as a neighbor and a friend.

Heidi LaClair - February 08, 2023 at 12:29 AM



“ Marcia and Don were a great couple, each bringing unique talents to their lives and marriage, and both a great blessing to others. Hers was one of the warming presences at myriad poetry readings. May she rest in peace and rise in glory! Chuck and Nancy Peek

Charles Peek - February 07, 2023 at 01:23 PM

RP

“ May her memory be for a blessing.

Rita Paskowitz - February 04, 2023 at 03:09 PM

KS

“ Sending love to your family as I know Marcia's passing leaves a large hole. She was a constant. During my years attending UNK as one of Kael's best friends, Marcia always welcomed me whether for a family dinner or just to hang and feel the sense of home. I loved her sense of humor and always marveled at her craftiness. I know she will be missed and that her memory will live on forever. — Much love, Karen (Krasky) Smith

Karen Friend Smith - February 04, 2023 at 01:56 PM