



MILDRED E. WOOLLEY

November 28, 1920 - February 16, 2018

On Friday, February 16th, Mildred Elaine (Worley) Woolley, of Syracuse, was welcomed into God's heavenly kingdom. Born on November 28, 1920, she died at age 97 of "Advanced Age." Remaining on this earth to celebrate her life and mourn her death are two of her children Mike Woolley and Carole Woolley Bildstein; sister Leone Gray; daughter in law Julie Roberts (Gary); son in law Ron Bildstein; five grandchildren Monique Woolley, Christopher Shawn (Angela) Woolley; Julianne Kathy (James) Williamson; Martin Bildstein and John Bildstein; grandson in law Gary Meyer; granddaughter in law Raellen Rutt; nine great grandchildren Amanda, Michael and Zoe Meyer; Christin and Tommy Woolley; Ryane, Jacob, Trinity and Emily Williamsons; nine nieces and nephews and a "boatload" of dear friends. Preceding her in death are, her son Steve Woolley in 2010; her granddaughter Michelle Woolley Meyer in 2012; her father and mother, her step father, two brothers, one sister and her former husband.

Mildred was born in Raton, New Mexico, in 1938 she graduated from Dawson High School in Dawson, NM—the Phelps Dodge mining camp, and graduated as a Registered Nurse from Beth El School of Nursing, Colorado Springs, Colorado in 1942. She married Merle Woolley (deceased 1978) of Colorado Springs and they had three children—Mike, Steve and Carole. Mildred divorced in 1958.

Mildred embraced Christianity as a Lutheran in 1960, joining Immanuel Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs. She was an active Christian and an

active church member who was especially interested in the role of the church at large and her congregation specifically in the arena of social justice, including racial equality. Through her Christian faith, she touched many lives resulting in loving and positive impact on others. When her daughter Carole enrolled at Valparaiso University, Mildred joined the Valparaiso University Guild where her volunteer time was integral to raising thousands and thousands of dollars for the University. After relocating to Syracuse NY in 1988, Mildred was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and later First English Lutheran Church.

Mildred's nursing career spanned 43 years and included industrial nursing during the war years, private duty nursing at multiple locations including Brady's Psychiatric Hospital, hospital and surgical nursing at St. Francis Hospital, general nursing at The Union Printers' Home, and the final 25 years as a Public Health Nurse for El Paso County. Mildred was active in many community organizations and causes during the Public Health years, as she served one of the most economically disadvantaged census tracts in Colorado Springs. She established a Well Baby Clinic in the neighborhood and she worked with the Fire Department to dismantle old refrigerators in the alleys, so children would not climb into them and suffocate. She never shied away from difficult cases and she brought her deep sense of empathy and her passion for social justice to her work on behalf of individuals and families. Two of the families she assisted continue to write to her even after all of these years. Mildred had a great sense of humor and enjoyed thinking up ideas that would make other people laugh. A great example is the time she put a picture of herself (head only) on the body of a woman on a motor scooter graphic and sent out to everyone. It was quite realistic looking, and a number of people seriously thought it was her. She was able to laugh at her own mistakes and never tired of telling on herself—like the time she was travelling to Colorado, stopped for the night, checked into a motel and then left the motel to find a restaurant. When she finished eating, she realized that she did not know the name of the motel or where it was. Fortunately, a nice young couple helper

her unravel that one.

Mildred enjoyed many other things as a retiree. At age 70, she met the nutrition and exercise guru, Richard Simmons, and they became lifelong friends. She had never exercised in her life, but she exercised at least once daily after meeting Richard. She travelled on at least 15 Cruise to Lose cruises with Richard, as well as visiting his exercise studio in Beverly Hills, California. From 1992 to 2005, Mildred made an annual round trip, road trip, by herself, from Syracuse to Colorado Springs and beyond. She visited her family and friends, former nursing school classmates, former clients from her work in Public Health, and other friends and relatives on the circuit. In the 80's, Mildred became keenly interested in national politics and her television set was always on MSNBC. She also listened to National Public Radio for over 30 years.

Mildred was a lifelong learner in both her professional and her personal life. As a Public Health Nurse, she learned basic medical Spanish so she could communicate better with her clients. She studied Kubler-Ross' groundbreaking work on Death and Dying, after a family lost a baby to SIDS, and she studied SIDS as well. At Immanuel Lutheran, she trained in the Bethel Bible Series (including a summer class in Madison, Wisconsin with the author) and taught the curriculum at church for a number of years. Following her retirement, Mildred studied folktales, myths and storytelling; became a watercolor artist, took OASIS classes in creative writing, current United States politics and many other topics.

Mildred's family and friends want to thank all of the staff members and administrators who cared for her in the Loretto PACE program (2013—2018), especially Louise Scott—Geriatric Care Aide, Dr. Jennifer Weinraub and Mr. Len Phillips, Psychologist. In addition to PACE, thanks to Dr. Robert Cupelo and Dr. William Loftus who were her physicians from 1988 to 2013.

Funeral services will be held 9:00 AM Thursday at Good Shepard Lutheran Church, 7248 Highbridge Rd, Fayetteville. Entombment will follow in

Woodlawn Cemetery, Syracuse.

Family and friends may call from 4 to 7 pm Wednesday at BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, 2601 Milton Ave.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you contribute to one of Mildred's favorite organizations: Mesa House, Attn. Steve Handon, 420 Mesa Road, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80904 or Covenant House, 460 W. 41st Street, New York City, New York 10036.

Please offer online memories and tributes at www.bagozzitwins.com.

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Cemetery-Mausoleum

800 Grant Blvd.
Syracuse, NY
(315) 479-5826

Previous Events

Calling Hours

FEB 21. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Bagozzi Twins Funeral Home, Inc.
2601 Milton Ave.
Solvay, NY 13209
(315) 468-2431
steve@bagozzitwinsfh.com
<https://www.bagozzitwins.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 22. 9:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepard Lutheran Church
7248 Highbridge Rd.
Fayetteville, NY 13066

Tribute Wall



“ *MILDRED E. WOOLLEY*

January 21, 2023 at 02:11 PM



“ *I was saddened to hear of Mildred's passing. Mildred and her daughter Carole took several classes together at Oasis which they seemed to enjoy very much. Mildred particularly enjoyed classes taught by Kaye Lindauer. I am going to miss seeing Mildred's smiling face around Oasis. Sending prayers of comfort and peace to Carole and the rest of Mildred's family.*



Tracie Alexander - March 05, 2018 at 10:59 AM



“ *Mildred and I had a very special friendship for many years. I was her Secretary when she was a Public Health Nurse. I will always treasure all my memories of her. I loved all her special lil' cards she sent to me. She was a very intelligent lady, and always involved in so much. Carole knows how much I loved her Mom. May she rest in peace. Heaven rec'd a very special lil' angel... Please know all of the family are in my thoughtst and prayers. Take care Love, Mary H. (Co. Spgs., CO)*

Mary H. - March 05, 2018 at 12:54 AM

SJ

“ I met Mildred October 2015 when I started to volunteer at PACE. I wanted to read to someone and she wanted to be read to. Over a few weeks time, we read the book written about the beginnings of the Beth-El nursing school. I believe she was student there in sthe 1940s. She had many happy and interesting stories about the school and her experiences there. There were many pictures in the booklet of the evolution of the physical structures housing the school. Mildred poinsted them all out to me.

I think she was an amazing person, always learning, going to lectures, classes, etc. with Carole when she was able. She also described how wonderful and devoted her children Carole and Mike were to her. I also feel she was so amazing living with her condition of paralysis. She wasn't a complainer.

I just wanted you to know that I enjoyed her company and am glad I got to know her.

Susan Jereb

Susan Jereb - February 23, 2018 at 04:26 PM

JD

“ It was nice to meet and spend time with Mildred, for the small amount if time I got to know her. I miss helping her with her handmade cards while talking about current events. She was such a lovely lady with a beautiful soul. May her soul rest in peace and may God be with her family at this difficult time.



Jakia Durham - February 23, 2018 at 02:28 PM

RK

“ *Members of the Woolley family
From this distance I'm sad to learn of Mildred's death and Nancy
and I send our condolences and assurance of prayers. Mildred
exemplified deep faith and dedicated discipleship throughout her
multi-faceted life and may the faith which sustained her sustain you
in the days ahead. The Lord fill you with his peace and hope.
Pr. Raymond V. Kirk
Trinity Church, Syracuse 1999-2010*

Raymond Kirk - February 20, 2018 at 09:57 AM

SE

“ *Mildred was such a lovely person with an attitude of love and
kindness. She was so friendly and loving, there was nothing to do
but be loving back.
After meeting her on the Cruise to Lose we learned how to love life
and not let age intervene in our enjoyment of it! She taught us a
lovely lesson of peace and love!
God has gotten a lovely angel and although she will be missed, we
are looking forward to seeing her again!
Much love,
Sue and Roger Elliott*

Sue Elliott - February 19, 2018 at 01:42 PM

CA

“ *Sending love to Carole and family - I loved Mildred so much. She
always had such a beautiful smile and was genuinely happy to see
you. Mildred told me so many wonderful stories and always made
me feel special when we were together. You mom was one of a kind
and she will be missed <3*

Christine Angell - February 19, 2018 at 12:38 PM

SU

“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



Susan - February 19, 2018 at 08:54 AM

SU

Mildred touched so many people, she was a kind, friendly person with the best sense of humor. My family and friends hold fond memories from our times spent together. I will miss our frequent conversations and the wisdom she also left with me at the end of our calls. Heaven gained an angel, she will always be in my thoughts and heart. Love to Carole and her family. Always, Susan

Susan - February 19, 2018 at 10:00 AM



“ *Oh, I loved Mildred! Her spirit, her warmth and kindness to all she met...her courage and sense of humor. Sending love to Carole and her family; Mildred was such a special woman. It's very hard to say goodbye.*

Helen Weichman - February 18, 2018 at 02:36 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of MILDRED E. WOOLLEY.



February 17, 2018 at 11:20 PM



“ I was honored to meet Mildred - her wonderful spirit will always be with me and my family. May her beautiful soul rest in God's Peace and Love!

Luba Lesser - February 17, 2018 at 11:07 PM



“ I will never forget Mildred's love of life, sense of humor and a soul full of love! She made every Cruise to Lose she was on a real joy! I will miss her wonderful attitude...so honored to have met her and gotten to know her while she sailed the 7 Seas and been one of her many "boatload" of friends!

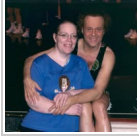
Sending prayers of comfort and peace! I know she was welcomed in heaven with open arms!

"When someone you love becomes a memory the memory becomes a treasure."

I know you have a lifetime of memories to treasure!

*Much love,
Tricia Akowicz*

Tricia Akowicz - February 17, 2018 at 09:38 PM



“ *Mildred was such a sweet lady and it was a delight to have been able to meet her (and Carole) on Richard's cruises. She will always be fondly remembered!*

Bev Jull - February 17, 2018 at 08:31 PM

DY

“ *I got the pleasure and luck to meet Mildred, years ago. Back in 1984 when my special needs son, Joey was born and Mildred as a home visiting nurse was coming to our home.*

When we got back together at times of her travel trips back to Colorado or us going to New York. We always seem to talk and laugh about one of the visits that she made to our house.

She had showed up unexpectedly (so happened that Joey was in the hospital) and our deaf white dog was loose in the yard. When she rang the doorbell and I came to the door. She so CALM and politely said " Your Dog just bit me!" I looked at her leg where she pointed at, her having white pants on, the red blood showing thru.

So I panicked' called my husband to come home from work. We drove her the hospital, where she received stitches to her bite. Not wanting any more incidents such as this I called to stop her visits. She confronted me about the call and I realized then and there that I was speaking to a very Special Person, I will even go as far as to say an Angel,,,!, A very special bond had been made,,, Mildred you are forever in my heart and mind,, R. I. P.,,,,,,,God Bless You,

Debbie

debbie younger - February 17, 2018 at 02:09 PM

LY

“ Love always, Debbie and Joey Younger purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of MILDRED E. WOOLLEY.



Love always, Debbie and Joey Younger - February 17, 2018 at 01:40 PM

LW

“ I always looked forward to seeing Mildred and Carole on the cruises. Mildred had a kind word and a smile for everyone, inspiring us all. I feel so blessed to have known her. She'll be in our hearts forever.

Linda Williams

Linda Williams - February 17, 2018 at 01:08 PM

JW

What fond memories I have of Mildred on the cruises with Richard Simmons. She was an inspiration to us all, not only by getting up and working out, but also by her kindness and compassion. Rest easy tonight sweet Mildred, it was a pleasure to know you.

Jessica Wilson - February 17, 2018 at 02:33 PM

SL

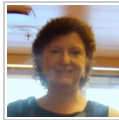
“ It was an honor to be Mildreds friend. On the cruises she would say "Theres my girl!!" She was so kind to me..and everyone she met. Our loss is heavens gain...just one more reason heaven will be a little sweeter when I get there!

Susan Lane - February 17, 2018 at 12:38 PM

CB

“ I was very fortunate to meet Mildred through Richard Simmons. She was a kind, lovely and funny lady. I always loved to see her costumes on our cruises, as they always made me smile. May her love embrace all of you in this difficult time. And may her memories make you smile. Carole you and your family are in my prayers.

Cyndi Baker - February 17, 2018 at 12:18 PM



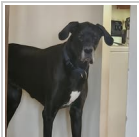
Mildred always inspired me to be just me and encouraged my brand of craziness. It brought such joy to my heart just to see her smile and share her wonderfully infectious zest for life. I am so thankful that she was brought into my life and that she had such a positive effect on my soul.

Mary Spargo - February 17, 2018 at 09:11 PM

MS

“ Mildred was a fabulous lady! Always caring! I met her through Richard Simmons. I always looked forward to seeing her on the cruises. God bless Mildred's family today and always!

Mary Simmons - February 17, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ I have so many Treasured Memories you will be missed grandma



Chris Woolley - February 16, 2018 at 10:45 PM