



Marthann Markle

April 13, 1940 - September 9, 2018

Marthann Markle, 78, passed away Sunday, September 9, 2018, following an extended battle with Alzheimer's Disease.

Marthann was born April 13, 1940 to Mildred and Charles Bush of Marshall, Illinois. She married James R. Markle on January 1, 1965 at the First Congregational Church in Marshall.

Marthann is survived by her only daughter, Melissa Markle Webster and her husband, Jim Webster, of Central City, Illinois. She has three grandchildren: Kayla Dunahee and her husband Darren, of Centralia, Illinois; Ian Thompson, of South Bend, Indiana and Madeline Webster, of Bloomington, Indiana; and three great grandchildren, Julian Collings, Kaleigh and Kairyn Dunahee. She is also survived by her brother John Bush and his wife Kay of Winter Springs, Florida; and her sister-in-law, the Reverend Ann Markle, of Buffalo, New York. She has several nieces, nephews and great nieces and nephews. Finally, she is survived by a dear friend and caregiver in the last year of her life, Laci Sligar.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and a niece, Eleanor Ford.

Marthann was a retired university educator, beginning her career at Indiana State University in 1963, and leaving in 1965 with her pregnancy of her only daughter. She returned at the request of the university in 1966 and often said it was one of the best phone calls she ever received in her life.

Marthann invested her entire career as an educator. She opened her own

dance and baton studio in 1955 as a 15 year-old sophomore in High School in Marshall on her parent's front porch. Many young dancers were trained at her studios. While it went on hiatus while she finished her bachelor's and master's degree at Indiana State University, she opened it again in the late sixties and continued to educate dancers until the late seventies. She also founded the high school dance team, the Marshallettes, which perform still today.

This was good practice, because in 1959 Marthann founded the Sparkette Dance and Drill Team during her sophomore year at Indiana State University. The dance team continues today, almost sixty years later. She also founded a dance company during her tenure, and educated many young men and women in many athletic pursuits, as well preparing physical education and elementary school teachers for their lives as educators. Marthann taught many courses, but her first love was social and ballroom dancing. Each semester in her later years, her classes performed in a Sycamore Showcase. She also was an active partner in her Heirloom Photographic Services, a photography studio owned by her and her husband in Marshall. However, Marthann's proudest accomplishment was her marriage and her family. The loving couple remained married until Jim's death in 2000, after 35 years of marriage. They were best friends and life partner's in the most true sense of the word. They were rarely apart, in work or in play and took great pleasure in each other's company: reading books aloud, watching movies, riding bikes and walking dogs, and camping.

Marthann was a singer, and a member of the National Champion American Legion Auxiliary Choir in Marshall. She was a proud founder in 1971 of the Epsilon Sigma Alpha Service Sorority, which remains today as the Marshall Service League.

Per Marthann's wishes, cremation rites will be accorded, and a Visitation will be held Wednesday, September 12, 2018 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia. Memorial donations may be

made to the Bledsoe Bush Markle Endowed Scholarship and will be accepted at the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home and Cremation Services 235 North Sycamore Street Centralia, Illinois 62801, (618)532-3523, who is honored to be of service to the Marthann Markle Family. Online condolences may be made to the family by visiting www.sutherlandfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services created a Tribute Video in memory of Marthann Markle*



Sutherland Funeral Homes, Cemetery and Cremation Services - October 26, 2018 at 10:39 AM

KH

“ *I am so sorry to hear of MarthAnn's passing. She was an inspirational lady! I had the good fortune to be her dance student in Marshall. Her exuberant love of life and her graciousness were always evident. Her example was influential in my life! My sincere condolences to her family!*

Kathy Hasten - September 22, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DG

“ *Marthann was one of the kindest and most gracious people I have ever known. She lifted spirits everywhere she went. Her thoughtfulness and consideration made people feel accepted and valued. May God bless her family. She will be missed.*

Donna Gerhardt - September 21, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ Mrs. Markle was a wonderful educator, mentor, role model and guide for many. Her ability to guide young women was very special, and many of us made friends that have lasted a lifetime. She was a guiding light for so many, for so long, it is hard to imagine ISU without her. She dedicated her life to her family and her job, and I know all her students were incredibly special to her, and she made us feel that way. She will be missed by so many. Light, love, and peace to her beautiful daughter Melissa and her family as they celebrate her life.

Cindy Rowe-Wagoner - September 18, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I have many fond memories of Marthann in Marshall and in Sparkettes at ISU. So sorry for your loss, Melissa.

Jill Zschau Stock - September 14, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KT

“ I was saddened to hear of Marthann's passing. I was a Sparkette 69-71 and will always have such good memories of those days. She was always so energetic and positive, took a chance on me with no dance experience and that became a big part of my college life. My sympathies to the family.

Karla (Keller) Trout - September 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JG

“ A true ISU legend! We were so tickled that our daughter was able to also have her as an instructor!

Jeanne Kryder Girtz - September 13, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Your Mom was a gem, Melissa! Sending prayers and hugs to you and your family!

Jessie Crews - September 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CE

“ She was such a positive influence in everyones life. She was so kind and loving. We went to church together for awhile and she was always coming into the bookstore as soon as she could find a reason. She blessed me too many times to mention and loved unconditionally.

Charla Evinger - September 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ So sorry for your loss. Marshall will always remember her.

Pam Arney Shumaker - September 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AR

“ I will never forget attending the Martha Ann Markle School of Dance. Martha Ann was truly a force of nature. At the same time my brother (12 yrs older)was playing football at Indiana State. My dance teacher was down there with the Sparkettes! That was so cool.Melissa, I don't know if you remember me, we had class together part of the time. I am so sorry for your loss. Your Mom was a great lady and teacher.

Alane Arbogast Robinson - September 12, 2018 at 12:00 AM

KB

“ What a special lady Marthann was! She left quite a legacy. My condolences go out to all of the family.

Kay Bolinger - September 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

LE

“ I had Marthann for ballroom dance at Indiana State. A wonderful instructor and lady. She will truly be missed by many. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Lisa Ennen - September 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ Marthanne was a dear friend. I will miss our little talks. I will miss her wonderful smile and positive attitude. Im so glad I had the pleasure of taking care of her and her dogs. Heaven truly reserved an angel!

Angel Martin - September 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

CK

“ Marthann had a beautiful energy, she always brightened my day when I took care of her and was quite sad when she moved. The Lord has gained a beautiful angel that will be a blessing in heaven, she I hope will meet me at the gates when I come into glory. Blessings of comfort to the family, friends and caregivers, she will be remembered! Love you Marthann, you will be missed, your friend and caregiver Cassy!

Cassandra Kinney - September 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JD

“ What a precious lady!!! Prayers for the family!

Jan and Rick Duzan - September 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ *What a wonderful tribute to your Mother. I worked for Marthann and your Dad at their studio behind your Grandparents house when I was in high school. Photography studio downstairs and that thunderous dance studio upstairs! Sometimes it seemed those girls were going to come crashing through the ceiling! My thoughts are with you through the coming days.*

Sharon Flinn - September 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *Marthann was truly a joy to be around! She was so sweet and positive. She would always recall when Fred and I took dance lessons at the studio. I always looked forward to running in to her in town. Melissa, you defiantly come from a long line of special ladies. I took baton lessons from her in your grandparents back yard. I loved their grape arbor! Your grandmother and grandfather were our neighbors when I was growing up. I remember your grandmother brought a gift over when my sister was born. It was a black patent leather diaper bag that had pink and rose brocade fabric accents. My mother said she knew it had to be very expensive because it came in a Roots store gift wrapped box. I cant thank you enough for sharing your family with me. My deepest sympathy. Molly Morecraft*

Molly Morecraft - September 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ *You were an influence to so many people at Indiana State. Your memory will live on forever. RIP.*

John Simpson - September 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ *A truly sweet and gracious lady. A class act. We will miss Marthann.*

John & Patsy Welborn - September 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ I didn't know Marthann well but loved her kind words and loved singing with her in *Women of Note*. She always had a kind word for all.

Donna Duzan - September 11, 2018 at 12:00 AM

VW

“ Marthann was my mentor in college. I took baton lessons from her in high school and went on to be a twirler at Indiana State University my Freshman year. I had never taken a dance lesson in my life, as Marthann pointed out, but she had me dancing as a Sparkette! She was such a talented lady! She made me believe that I could do anything. It was Marthann that told me about the Blue Beret group that was starting on campus and soon I was wearing my very chic ISU Blue Beret, suit, and "glass slippers" that Marthann designed. When the Miss ISU Contest came up in my Senior year, it was Marthann again that helped me with my talent routine. EVERYTHING that I accomplished during my college career was made possible by Marthann. There just aren't words enough to tell you how much she meant to me then and how sad it makes me to hear that she has passed away. I can't imagine the void that has been left within her family, her community, and her world. ISU was also so lucky to have her and I am very sure there never was or ever will be another quite like her. Tonight, I am shedding tears as I am reminded how very much she meant to me! Our loss will be heaven's gain. . . . Rest in peace Marthann!

Vickie Wey - September 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM