

## The Wondrous Life of Marileen Elizabeth Johnson

Marileen Elizabeth Bolay Johnson was born in Falls City, Nebraska on January 18, 1927 to Charles and Elsie Bolay. At 18 she left the farm for Westmar College graduating with a B.S. in Biology and meeting her beloved husband Don, of 70 years.

In 1951, Don and Marileen were married and the adventure began. They moved to Boston in 1955 where Don attended graduate school at Boston University and Marileen taught at Honeywell Elementary in Wellesley, MA (her granddaughter later attended Wellesley College). An educator at heart, Marileen's career as an elementary school teacher grew to working with adults developing, publishing and teaching Parent Education Programs throughout the world.

Soon, Marileen and Don were the parents of two daughters, Ann and Mary. They lived and worked in churches throughout Massachusetts and later Iowa. In 1977, they joined the Institute of Cultural Affairs, ICA, a global community of non-profit organisations advancing human development worldwide. Being part of the ICA they developed life long friendships through their activism.

Marileen's kind smile hid a Warrior for social justice. A member of the League of Women Voters for over 50 years and an active member of Planned Parenthood since 1987,

Marileen assisted national and local leaders achieve office, and pass legislation as well as working on Peace Education and Peace Initiatives.

In retirement Don and Marileen fulfilled their desire to travel with trips to China, Korea, Russia, Taiwan, Europe and Mexico. Eventually they settled in North County of San Diego, where they could enjoy being part of their grandchildren's lives, attending baseball games, soccer games, football games and birthday parties.

Daughter, Granddaughter, Sister, Mother, Aunt, Grandmother, Wife, Educator, Social Justice Warrior, Friend, of all these roles and many others she played throughout her life, being a Grandmother to Robert and Sophia brought her the greatest joy in her later years and she took her role as Grandmother seriously.....A trip to legoland was always planned on a visit to Grandma's house. Although cooking was not one of Marileen's favorite pastimes she did have her specialties, Grandma's waffles were famous with the under 10 crowd as well as her christmas cookies and lemon meringue pie.

Marileen is survived by her husband, J Donald Johnson, her daughter Ann, grandchildren Robert Khoury and Sophia Khoury, and her sister Anna Marie Worden.

A Memorial Service will be held September 19, 2021 at 12:00 PM at San Dieguito United Methodist Church, 170 Calle

Magdalena, Encinitas CA. Donations can be made to San Dieguito United Methodist Church in lieu of flowers