



Martha Jean Book Powell (Marty)

September 19, 1932 - May 11, 2017

Martha Jean Book Powell (Marty)

age 84, passed away peacefully on May 11, 2017 surrounded by her daughters at home in her beloved Irvington. She was born on September 19, 1932 to Charles Sheldon Book and Martha Jean Meek Book in the Arlington Court Apartments.

Marty grew up in Irvington. She attended George W. Julian School #57 and graduated from Thomas Carr Howe High School. Marty entertained a multitude of childhood friends, and she was often the ring leader in orchestrating mischief...such as blowing a crater in School #57's playground upon igniting gunpowder.

Marty went on to attend Butler University. She participated in Butler's gymnastic team and was a majorette for their marching band. She was active in her sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha, and again, maintained her leadership role in encouraging her friends "to always have fun". Following her course at Butler, Marty worked for C.W. Vize, an Irvington dentist/oral surgeon. A story frequently relayed during this stint of employment, told of her speeding up Arlington Avenue, late to work...a common occurrence...and running over the police motorcycle upon being pulled over.

Marty met her husband, Elwood, on a blind date, and they were married in 1959. Poor Elwood never knew what to expect. Marty went on to embrace motherhood and was actively involved in the lives of her three daughters. She held a position of office, often President, of the PTA at School #57, Our Lady

of Lourdes, Thomas Carr Howe High School, and Scecina Memorial High School.

Marty was a founding member of the Irvington Community Council, as well as a variety of Irvington Clubs and organizations. She was actively involved in the Irvington Presbyterian Church and later, served as a Deacon.

Marty was passionate when issues arose, and was often set to task, an example being the crusade of Irvington matrons that she led into an establishment of ill repute that had set up business across from one of the local schools in an attempt to close it down. As the story was told, a bit of a ruckus ensued, and ultimately they were successful in their endeavor.

Marty was prone to unconventionality and often provided distraction with her "Martyisms". She was a frequent contributor to the IndyStar's "Let it Out" column, and for those who knew her well, her commentary was easily identifiable. Additionally, she had a tendency to label others with nicknames, especially those that created adversity in her life. Despite being actively involved in nearly every Irvington organization, Marty possessed a love for teaching children. She fulfilled this role as a substitute teacher for Schools #57, #77, #85, and Our Lady of Lourdes. Marty also went on to establish an in home child care business where she cared for a countless number of children throughout the years.

There are a many stories that come to mind that capture the facets of Marty's personality and zest for life. Most of which have been discussed at her kitchen table, the table that has entertained and fed many, both young and old across the decades. Marty embraced the laughter and affection of children, adults, and animals. She would always feed a stray, perform cartwheels across the lawn, well into her 70's, and help a friend in need.

Marty's presence here on earth will be greatly missed, however, a part of her will continue to live on in the many lives that she has touched throughout the years.

Marty is survived by her three daughters and their spouses, Vicki Powell-Tippit (Tim Motsinger), Karen Gerald (Danny), and Kristin Loesch (Mark), seven

grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren. She is also survived by her nieces Cheryl Blankenship and Michelle Jacobs, as well as her nephews Steven Blankenship, and Scott Jacobs. And last but not least, her beloved feline and steadfast companion, Dodi.

Visitation will be Tuesday, May 16, 2017 from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. and from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel, 5377 E. Washington St. Her funeral will take place at Irvington Presbyterian Church on Wednesday May 17, 2017 at 11:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Marty to IndyFeral.

Cemetery Details

Washington Park East

10612 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46229

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 16. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel
5377 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 357-1181
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Visitation

MAY 16. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Irving Hill Chapel
5377 E. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46219
(317) 357-1181
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Funeral Service

MAY 17. 11:30 AM (ET)

Irvington Presbyterian Church
55 Johnson Avenue
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



Shirley Brothers Mortuaries & Crematory - May 18, 2017 at 11:47 AM

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“ *What a wonderful woman Marty was !! Her contributions to everyone she encountered are immeasurable. Heaven got a great one and her earthly presence will be greatly missed. My greatest sympathy to all of you !*

Kyla Thompson - May 17, 2017 at 09:12 AM