



Margaret Frances Underwood

July 8, 1930 - January 7, 2017

Margaret Frances Cook Underwood, age 86, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Saturday, January 7, 2017, in Traverse City, Michigan surrounded by family.

Margaret was born on July 8, 1930 in Cincinnati, Ohio to Albert Charles Cook and Maude Hegner Cook. She attended Hartwell High School in Cincinnati, and was a member of the final graduating class from that school. She spent every summer with her family at the family cottage on Little Glen Lake in Leelanau County. She graduated from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio with Honors with a degree in Psychology.

After marrying John N Underwood Sr, the family relocated to Traverse City, Michigan in 1964. They immediately joined the First Baptist Church of Traverse City and remained members until their deaths. In 1967, after being divorced, Margaret chose to stay in Traverse City and raise her 5 children in the area. She began working for the Boy Scouts of America, Scenic Trails Council in 1965, going to full time employment in 1967. Margaret was also actively involved as a volunteer in the Scouting program, serving as a Den Leader, Committee Chair, Round Table Leader, District Trainer, Brownie Leader and Troop Leader for the Girl Scouts. She also served on the Crooked Tree Council Board and was the Contingent Leader for her Girl Scout Troop to Our Cabanya in Cornovica, Mexico. Margaret received several awards for her volunteer leadership in Scouting including the District Merit Award for the council and the Silver Beaver Award from the Scenic Trails Council. She retired from the Boys Scouts in 1994. While she was working at the Boy Scouts, Margaret earned a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Ferris State University, and worked on a Master's Degree in Education from Michigan State University.

Margaret had been politically active in the Republican Party since her arrival in Traverse City. In 1988, Margaret was approached and ran for a seat on the Grand Traverse County Commission Board. In her 20 years as a County Commissioner, she held several positions including Vice Chair and Chairman of the Board. Margaret retired from the Commission in December of 2008, at the age of 78, being the longest serving County Commissioner in Grand Traverse County at that time.

In 1994, Margaret was asked to serve as the Deputy Treasurer of East Bay Township, where she served until 2006. After retirement, she kept active quilting, reading, especially

books about the Civil War, and watching lots of sports – especially keeping up on the Detroit Redwings.

Margaret was always active in the community. She volunteered for the National Cherry Festival starting as a volunteer building floats, then moved on to become a Festival Director for 25 years and ended up a NCF Chancellor. She was President of the Traverse City Area Public Schools Music Boosters, heading up the Annual Fruit Sale several years. She helped spear head the fund drive for the new track at what is now Traverse City Central High School. Margaret also received the first ever “Golden Baton Award” from the TCHS Boys Track program in 1977 for her never ending support of the program.

Margaret served her Lord and Savior with a passion. As she recently witnessed to First Baptist Church, her first memory was riding on her big brother Bert’s shoulders, through the cornfields to attend Sunday School at Wyoming Baptist Church in Cincinnati, Ohio where she became a member and continuing as a member of First Baptist Church in Traverse City, Michigan. She faithfully taught Sunday School for 52 years serving all ages within the church. She also completed Layman Certification with American Baptist Churches in the 1970’s. Margaret was elected to the American Baptist Churches State Board of Regents, as well as the National Board of Directors for the American Baptist Churches - USA. She also served as the President of the American Baptist Women’s Ministries at both the State and Local level, and was still the White Cross Coordinator this past Christmas.

Margaret is survived by her five children: son John (Arlene) of Eden Prairie, MN; son David (Laura) of Sturgis, MI; daughter Sarah Segerlind (TJ) of East Lansing, MI; son Daniel (Lorraine) of White Salmon, WA; son Joseph of Traverse City, MI; and brother Albert Charles Cook, Jr. of New Jersey. Also surviving are her beloved grandchildren; Nick, Emily, Sally, Erick, Matthew, Amy Margaret, Amy Arlene, Kate, Julie and Anne, along with her great- grandchildren Sydney, Jaime, Bryan, Marley and Liam. She is preceded in death by her brothers Joe and Robert and her parents Albert and Maude Cook.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, Jan. 15 from 5pm to 7pm and again on Monday, Jan. 16 from 10am to 12 noon at the Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home in Traverse City. A memorial service will be held in the spring at First Baptist Church in Traverse City followed by a private family interment.

In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made in Margaret’s name to International Ministries, American Baptist Foreign Mission Society, c/o First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 6733, Traverse City, MI 49696-6733.

Please share your thoughts and memories with Margaret’s family by way of her online guestbook at www.reynolds-jonkhoff.com.

The family is being cared for by Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home and Cremation

Services.

Events

JAN **Visitation** 05:00PM - 07:00PM

15

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

JAN **Visitation** 10:00AM - 12:00PM

16

Reynolds-Jonkhoff Funeral Home
305 Sixth St, Traverse City, MI, US, 49684

Comments



“ Margaret was a great lady. She watched my husband earn his Eagle Scout. Volunteering in Boy Scouts gave us many times to talk.

However, my best memory of Margaret was when she was the only mom to let us bring our dissected cat home to work on her kitchen table. Those were the days Sarah.

carol bakke - July 10, 2017 at 02:15 AM



“ Margaret was a community treasure and she will be missed. My condolences to her family, she was an amazing person that I was privileged to know.

Jeannie Cole - January 19, 2017 at 01:07 PM



“ I remember Margaret's kindness and patience as she dealt with us as young Scouts invading the Scout office for O/A and other Scout Meetings. She had a servant's heart and was a wonderful example for young Scouts trying to learn how to be good leaders and citizens. Our condolences and prayers to the family. She will be greatly missed. Bill and Jody Ewing

Bill Ewing - January 15, 2017 at 03:58 PM



“ Joe, Dan, Sarah, Chip, Woody and families-you are all in our thoughts and Prayers. Sending you hugs and Love always, Matt and Sue Courtade and family

Matt and Sue Courtade - January 14, 2017 at 06:45 PM



“ Condolences to the Underwood family Margaret was a hard working supporter and a good neighbor Sen George/Clara McManus (Ret)

Sen George McManus Jr - January 14, 2017 at 07:31 AM



“ To Margaret's Family and Friends,

I worked with Margaret from 1982 until 1990 as a young DE from the North. Her

great patience and understanding was a real boost to me. Everything she did showed her kindness and respect for other people. Her faith and life exemplifies the 12 points of the Scout Law, and the 10 Commandments.

We have truly been blessed to have such a great person in our lives.

Brian Granger

Brian Granger - January 13, 2017 at 09:56 AM



“ Margaret was a wonderful woman who will be missed very much ! Bob @ I have know her for 30+ years :) I remember her as always being busy doing something for family, Boy Scouts, cherry festival, church or a township board ! She didn't let any grass grow under her feet! What a great example she set for everyone. I thought she could do about anything she set her mind to. Our prayers are with the family now & in the days ahead. Margaret had a very strong faith. That is a blessing to her family & friends.

Bob & Trish Buttleman

Trish Buttleman - January 12, 2017 at 08:22 PM



“ So very sorry to hear of Margaret's passing. I have many fond memories of her and the family when Chip and I went out in high school. Love and prayers to all. - Jane (Johnson) Boursaw

Jane Boursaw - January 11, 2017 at 08:02 PM



“ From the day I met her Margaret was my second Mom. We could talk about everything and anything and we did! I loved working with her at the township, she was such an inspiration to me making me love life so much and getting through the daily battles. Margaret you will be missed much by many...God Bless to her wonderful kids, even you Chip!!!! All my love...

Leslie Couturier - January 11, 2017 at 06:40 AM



“ I am so sorry about the loss of Margret Underwood. She will be missed by her wonderful children, friends and the community which she has served over the years. I will pray for you all and know that she will always be with you in your heart,

Sincerely,

Judy Augenstein

Judy Augenstein - January 10, 2017 at 08:50 PM



“ A special friend and mentor the Allen's are sadden by her passing. Margaret helped shape the lives of many in our region. As a leader, I am grateful for her role in local government and the region. She served our Grand Traverse County well.



Jason Allen - January 10, 2017 at 08:17 PM



“ Thanks for sharing this picture; I was privileged to be secretary to this amazing group and Margaret was a very big part of my life and our community. She will be missed by all. We lost an angel, heaven's gain...Thoughts and prayers for her family. -- Esther Cooper

Esther Cooper - January 22, 2017 at 09:39 PM



“ Margaret was great to work with back in the day at STC and was always able to set "the boss" straight when he'd get out of line -- we loved that. We had lots of laughs. Such a great person and very intelligent.

Pete Stikovich

Pete S - January 10, 2017 at 04:49 PM



“ I have known Margaret for about 44 years. She interviewed me when I went to go apply for a job at the Boy Scout Office in 1973. We became good friends and made some trips together, both for work and for fun. I watched her kids grow older and go out on their own. Margaret and I went to the same church in Traverse City and so were never out of touch with each other. She was a great lady, lots of fun, and I will certainly miss her.

Prayers, love and hugs to her family.

Sarah Walter - January 10, 2017 at 02:03 PM



“ I knew Margaret for fifty years, I babysat for her kids when they were young. She was a loving, giving person and one of those women that I always looked up to. Her priorities were family, Church and community spending many hours giving of her time and talents in those areas. I sought her council often in politics and served with her on the County Board of Commissioners. She was a force!

Thoughts and prayers to Chip, Sarah and Joe. Your Mom was the best.

Molly Agostinelli - January 10, 2017 at 11:38 AM



“ Margaret, a strong woman who always put her family first. A person who gave a large part of her life to serving the community. You will be missed...
My prayers and peace to her children and how fortunate they were to have their Mother for so many years.

Blessings
Susan LaRose-Grover

Susan - January 10, 2017 at 10:18 AM



“ On behalf of American Baptist Women of MI we are saddened by Margaret's passing. Yet, we know she is a new angel in Heaven and she is busy Praising God. We appreciate all her service through the years in the cause of Christ through our ABW Ministries. We pray peace and comfort for her family, friends and church family.

Blessings, Renee Langley, ABW Ministries President, MI

Renee Langley - January 10, 2017 at 10:12 AM



“ My heartfelt condolences to the family. Margaret became such a part of our Scenic Trails lives after my husband Paul and I moved to Michigan in 1979. Her vast experience and knowledge of scouting and scouters were both valuable and amazing! I have fond memories of her humor as well.
Margaret is rejoicing now, face to Face with her Lord and Savior...while family and friends grieve and look forward to that grand reunion.
Mary Ryan

Mary Ryan - January 10, 2017 at 09:16 AM



“ Prudy Bannick, ABW sent a virtual gift in memory of Margaret Frances Underwood



Prudy Bannick, ABW - January 10, 2017 at 07:57 AM



“ I met Margaret when she worked with Joe Groszek at the Scenic Trails Boy Scout Office and saw her often over the years at township offices and working for various causes in the community. I remember how proud and involved she was with her family. I will pass this news on to Kay Groszek O'Brien. .rest in peace Margaret..

Louise Elsenheimer Kurtz - January 09, 2017 at 02:50 PM



“ I worked with Margaret for many years at the Township and she always had positive things to say about everyone she met and she always always had a smile. A truly beautiful person. You will be missed Margaret.....fly with the angels now!

Viv Olson

Vivian Olson - January 09, 2017 at 01:27 PM