



## Marilyn Poling

July 28, 1925 - November 22, 2021

Marilyn Rose Poling (nee Swartz) - nurse, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend - passed away from Alzheimer's at Danbury Assisted Living and Memory Care, Monday, Nov. 22, 2021. Born at home in St. Marys, Ohio on July 28, 1925 to Edward and Leota Schaefer Swartz, Mom lived a rich full 96 years.

She was a graduate of St. Marys High School where she played on the Rough Riders' Girls Basketball Team and sang alto in the Triple Trio. She worked at Goodyear for a year until she was recruited by the U. S. Department of Public Health for the Cadet Nurse Corps. World War II created a critical shortage of medical staff at home. Hospitals were closing, and people were going without health care. To prevent the collapse of civilian nursing, starting in 1943, the Public Health Department intensively trained and certified registered nurses in exchange for their pledge to serve the country for the duration of the war. Along with their other duties, Cadet Nurses like our mother worked tirelessly through a polio epidemic and cared for returning servicemen and women. Mom's training took place at the Miami Valley Hospital School of Nursing in Dayton, Ohio. After three years of accelerated study, she graduated on Sept. 18, 1947, her proudest moment! She received her nursing license from the State of Ohio on Feb. 5, 1948.

On Sept. 2, 1947, Mom married Kenneth Eugene Poling at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in St. Marys. He was her roommate Maxine's brother and had just returned home from France when they met at Maxine's wedding. Dad proposed to Mom a year later on Valentine's Day. They subsequently lived in Miami, Florida; Macon, Georgia; and Memphis, Tennessee before returning to Ohio in 1957 and settling in Sharon Township. In 1967, they moved to what has become our family home of 53 years in Old Worthington.

A dedicated nurse, Mom worked at Miami Valley Hospital, the University of Miami FL Hospital, the U.S. Marine Hospital in Memphis and as a private duty nurse. In their spare time, she and Dad traveled widely throughout the U.S., visiting all of the lower 48 states and Hawaii. Her "happy places" were Sanibel Island, Florida where she loved shelling and Tammy's cottage on Lake Michigan, where she sat on the deck for hours or roamed the

shore collecting beach rocks. At home, Mom loved flower gardening, reading historical fiction, and watching NCIS and Blue Bloods. She put family first, taking great joy especially in her five grandchildren, always supporting them and celebrating their successes. She made certain that our holidays together were full of fun and family. Mom also loved animals. She helped round up and return home many lost pets, and she faithfully fed her birds, squirrels, deer, and neighborhood strays. She was a proud member of the Ohio Historical Society's First Families of Ohio and First Civil War Families of Ohio. She was also a member of the Worthington Area Nurses Association, Children's Hospital Twigs, and the Worthington Women's Club.

Mom was preceded in death by our dad, Kenneth E. Poling, Sr., sister Joanne Heiby, and three infant sons. She is survived by her children Cheryl Best, Ken (Cindy) Poling, Tammy (Bill) Fullerton; and grandchildren Michael (Heather) Best, Megan Best (Shaun Cox), Kevin (Chris) Poling, and Will and Delaney Fullerton; sister Janet Wiswasser of Muncie, Indiana; brother-and-sister-in-law Kirby and Edie Poling; and numerous nieces and nephews. Family and friends are invited to join us for her funeral service at Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home, 515 High St., Worthington, Ohio at 1:00 p.m., Monday, November 29th. The visitation will be held starting at noon. There will be a graveside ceremony at Walnut Grove Cemetery, 5561 N. High St., following the funeral service.

If you would like to consider making a donation in Mom's name, please consider the following:

The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps are the only uniformed WWII corps members not to be recognized as for their service. The U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act was recently passed by the U.S. House of Representatives to give Cadet Nurses veteran's status with an honorable discharge from service where merited; burial benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs (not including Arlington National Cemetery); and allowing the Secretary of Defense to provide honorably discharged Cadet Nurses with a service medal. The bill has been sent to the Senate where it was previously rejected. If you would like to support passage, please contact your U.S. Senators or contribute to [uscadetnurse.org/donations](http://uscadetnurse.org/donations).

Contributions may also be made to Mom's favorite charity, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org), or to the Alzheimer's Association of Central Ohio, [www.alz.org/centralohio](http://www.alz.org/centralohio).

# Cemetery

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## Walnut Grove Cemetery

5561 Milton Ave.

Worthington, OH, 43085

# Events

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**NOV** **Visitation** 12:00PM - 01:00PM

**29**

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Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home

515 High Street, Worthington, OH, US, 43085

**NOV** **Funeral Service** 01:00PM

**29**

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Rutherford-Corbin Funeral Home

515 High Street, Worthington, OH, US, 43085

# Comments

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“ I did not know her much, just took her daughter to the prom in 1966 and drove her [husband's?] hot Buick Wildcat once. Seems like she lived a good and long life. Anyway, my condolences, Cheryl, hope things otherwise are well with you and your family.

Mike Howard, '67

Mike Howard - December 13, 2021 at 08:50 AM

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“ I was so very sorry to hear of your loss. May your memories of her provide comfort.  
LJ

Laura - November 30, 2021 at 01:26 PM

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“ We are very sorry for your loss. Your mom was kind and generous, patient and caring. She was good friend to our mother and was a second mother to me growing up. I cherish the memories I have of all the good times spent with your family. She made your house a loving home, and I am grateful to have been included in so many ways. We send our love.  
Barbara and all of the Cummiskey Family

Barbara Cooke - November 29, 2021 at 04:20 PM

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“ We are thinking of you. Marilyn will be greatly missed. -Teri-

Teri Berry - November 28, 2021 at 09:08 PM

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“ We send our deepest sympathy. We only wish we could be with you in your time of sorrow. Edie & Kirby

Edie Poling - November 28, 2021 at 08:59 PM

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“ Although I lived around the corner on Morning St and E. New England, I never had the privilege of knowing your mother personally. I am sure we bumped paths since our bus stop for middle school was one door down from your home. Maybe I shoveled her driveway once during the winters. She had an incredible, wonderful life based on your description. May peace overwhelm your family during this time of grief. . Sincerely, Michael Zelinski .

Michael Zelinski - November 27, 2021 at 02:52 PM

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“ We are friends of Mike & Heather Best. Saddened by your loss. Prayers of comfort and strength during this difficult time. With deep sympathy from Kelsey & Kevin Partin.



kelsey partin - November 25, 2021 at 04:05 PM

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“ I am sad to learn of Marilyn's passing. Her late husband, Ken, was a childhood friend of my father, Gene Putterbaugh, also deceased. Our families used to get together occasionally when I was young. I remember Marilyn as a beautiful, intelligent and talented woman. May your many good memories of her be a comfort to you.

Bev Larson - November 25, 2021 at 01:42 PM

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“ Susan Kidwell lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Poling



Susan Kidwell - November 25, 2021 at 11:02 AM

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“ David M. purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Marilyn Poling.



David M. - November 24, 2021 at 10:30 AM