



Marilyn Anne Tanquist

March 27, 2011

Marilyn Anne Tanquist, RN, age 85, of Columbus, joined the heavenly Saints on March 27, at home, surrounded by her husband of 60 years, Dr. Robert Tanquist, and her family. Graduate of Dorchester (MA) HS for Girls (1943), and Mounds-Midway School of Nursing (St. Paul, MN) in the Cadet Nurse Corps (1947). She became a Christian early in life, and this relationship and her love for music, was a driving force in her many activities throughout her long life. Her husband's military career allowed them to travel to & live in many parts of the world, further stimulating her interest in Christian missions. Their retirement years in Columbus allowed her many opportunities to host & teach international students & their families. She taught with INCH & the ESL program in her church, where she also played piano, mentored, and served in many capacities. Preceded in death by her parents, Rev. Eric and Lillian Fernlund. Survived by her husband, their 6 children, Eric (Janet), Linda (Kamal) Boulos, Karin (Dr. Pat Coy), Mark (Leigh), Martha (John Soshnik, Esq.), Elizabeth (David) Knodt, and 7 grandchildren: Lilly & Jack Soshnik-Tanquist, Elisa, Kristoffer & Stephen Tanquist, Christianne Boulos, & Rachel Knodt; brothers Rev. Calvin (Nancy) Fernlund, Dr. Jay C. (Ethel) Fernlund and their families; lifetime friend, Shirley Wickman. Marilyn was born in St. Paul, Minnesota to Swedish immigrant parents. She was raised in a bilingual pastor's home where music was a big part of their lives. (Her parents' courtship began with a duet on a church platform. he was a visiting Baptist evangelist, and she a soloist in the choir.) Marilyn's favorite musical outlet has

always been the piano, and her piano solos have been enjoyed in churches on three continents. Her childhood was spent in St. Paul & Redwing, Minnesota, and Boston, Massachusetts. She chose nursing as her field of study, and her science background included a brief war contribution at MIT working as a technician in the early development of radar. After completing nursing school she spent a year and a half travelling coast to coast in a Swedish Baptist youth ministry, called "God's Invasion Army". She worked as a psychiatric nurse until marrying Bob in 1950. (They met in 1945 on a streetcar on a bitter cold day in Minnesota..) Their international lifestyle began when he was assigned to Okinawa, Japan in 1953 to serve as a dentist in the Air Force. She followed him 6 months later, travelling alone with her first 2 children (ages 2 & 6 months), by train and ship. a story for another time. The Air Force presented Marilyn with new opportunities: transforming a house into a home in 12 different places, raising 6 children in frequently changing locations, adjusting to different cultures and climates. Childhood and adolescent challenges were met with her pithy wisdoms, "You're just going through a phase," and "This, too, shall pass." Moving meant new churches in each place and finding ways to serve others. These included: teaching Sunday school in Okinawa, meeting and encouraging missionaries, providing a home base for Bible translators and our denomination's missionaries in the Philippines, serving in the village Anglican church in England, organizing European Protestant Women's Retreats within the Air Force Chapel program, directing children's choirs, and always playing the piano. Marilyn never had empty hands. when they weren't holding babies, they were cooking, or sewing, knitting, or her favorite hobby: needlepoint. For many years she made all her & her daughters' clothes. Marilyn was known for her cooking, and hospitality was her specialty. Her "empty nest" has never been empty, for her home has truly been a welcoming home to thousands of guests. She had a special place in her heart for people of other cultures, becoming like a mother to many internationals who live in Columbus, continuing to use her mothering gifts long after her own 6 left home. Her gift of encouragement has touched the lives of

many, and especially her 7 adored grandchildren. Her family sees her face in Proverbs 31:10-31. "Her children stand and bless her; so does her husband. He praises her with these words: 'There are many fine women in the world, but you are the best of them all! "It's easy to overlook that in the middle years of her busy and full life, she battled breast cancer. Her life was spared through surgery and radiation which left her with other challenges which she gracefully bore. Those struggles became more evident in these last 10 years, as heart and lung damage claimed her energy and eventually her life. Her valiant fight to keep going as her weakness increased has shown us all what a strong and amazing woman she was. She never complained, and kept a positive and hopeful attitude until the very end, always hoping that tomorrow she would wake up feeling better again. On March 27, she did wake up feeling strong and well again, in the arms of Jesus. This is the verse Marilyn left behind on her mirror: "For because of our faith, He has brought us into this place of highest privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to actually becoming all that God has in mind for us to be." Romans 5:2 LB

Tribute Wall



“ *Marilyn Anne Tanquist*

January 28, 2023 at 10:24 AM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you. She was an amazing woman and I am thankful that we had the opportunity to know and love her.*

John and Rebecca Fernlund & family - April 01, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dearest Bob & Family, We have such mixed emotions learning of Marilyn's home going! Yes, sad for all of you but joyful knowing that she is with the "Lover of her soul- Jesus"! What a testimony of her precious life-- I can hear Father say: "well done good & faithful servant----enter into the joy of your Lord"! We have fond memories of our tour in the Philippines with all of you-(1968-70). "The Lord bless you & keep you, The Lord make His face shine upon you, & be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you & give you Shalom (peace)." Nu 6:24 In HIS love, John & Betty Stroble*

John & Betty Stroble - March 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

FQ

“ Dear Tanquist Family, I am so sorry to hear Marilyn passed away last Sunday. Marilyn had helped us a lot since we moved to this country around 13 years ago. We still remembered that she helped us through difficult times, especially when we had the first child. I still remembered that Bob and Marilyn visited us in our apartment after our son was born and even went upstairs to see him when he slept. I still remembered that our apartment infested with rats, I had to call her for advice on how to get rid of rats. I still remembered one time during Christmas time, we had car accident in highway more than one hour away from Columbus, we had to call her and Dr. Bob Tanquist drove and picked me up. I do not know how to express the gratitude she cared our four children over the years. We had asked her many times about child rearing and child educations since my mother and in-laws are not living in this country. Love, Frank, Han, William, Marilyn, Shannon, Hannah

Frank Gao and Han Qi - March 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ "O death where is your sting." I know Marilyn will be missed so I pray the Lord Who comforts in all things brings His balm in very personal ways in the coming year. o/ Him!

Mary Plantier - March 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Dear family, Courtney, Gary and I were saddened to here of Marilyn's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. We take great comfort in knowing that she is with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Love in Christ's name, Gary, Sharon & Courtney Mitchell

Sharon Mitchell - March 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NC

“ Linda, Kamal, Christianne, Elizabeth, David, Rachel, Mark, Leigh, and Elisa, I am so sad that I did not read my email until several hours after the visiting hours and funeral for your mom and grandmother. I would have much preferred to greet you in person and express my concern for you with a hug rather than a sterile email. The obituary was a real testimony to the work of Christ in a life surrendered to Him. What a blessing to be rooted and grounded in Him throughout your lifetimes. It is a great comfort to know she is well and in the presence of the savior, yet I know you feel a sense of loss for her presence with you here on this side. May the God of all comfort comfort you with so much that you have leftover for others. I'll call LifeBridge in the morning; we'll be praying for you. Love in Christ, Nedra

Nedra Crawford - March 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ To all the very special Tanquist family: I am sorry I could not interact with all of you on a personal level at this emotional time. I had a God appointed time of relationship with Marilyn over a long period of time not only medically but also as brother and sister in our Lord. I especially remember getting to know her at a deeper level when we served together on the Pastoral Call Committee for Covenant Baptist which ultimately led to Pastor Tyler Flynn coming to pastor the church. It was then I came to appreciate the gentle insightful caring person that characterized Marilyn to me. As was so eloquently stated in her obituary she was truly a woman who gave so readily of herself to family and others. She also bore trials including her physical challenges with a peace and patience that was a real Christian witness to me. From losing both of my Christian parents, I know the difference God makes in these situations. While I miss my parents every day I am also reminded daily of the influence they had on me and that I am continuing the legacy they left to me especially the reality of God and knowledge of Christian values and willingness to be submissive to Him in my daily walk. I know you all have that same legacy and that it will comfort and sustain you in the days ahead.

Terry Castor M.D. - March 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PM

“ Dear Mark and family, We are sorry to learn of your mother's passing. Her life is an interesting and beautiful story. We enjoyed her presence the few times we were in her company.

Paul and Greta Massie - March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MG

“ I shall miss my friend Marilyn but am so thankful she is with the Lord-waiting for us to join her there. She can sing and walk and dance again-and is seeing her loved ones that have gone before her. Waiting with you all for the resurrection. Mary Lou

Mary Lou Goldmann - March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KH

“ We are praying for you at this time. I'm sure your mom was blessed by your faithfulness in caring for her this last year. The great thing is is that she is now with her Lord and Savior!

Kirby Hsu - March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ Dear Bob and the Tanquist Family, We were deeply saddened by the news of Marilyn's passing. Words alone can not express the deep sorrow you are feeling, but memories of over 60 years of an enduring marriage and close family ties will help sustain you in the years to come. We wish to express our heart felt sympathy at this doleful time.

Richard and Sandi Goodkind - March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ Dear Bob and all the family, Remembering Marilyn brings a flood of thoughts to mind...from watching her so calmly and beautifully handle 6 children and in the process have a marvelous touch with all who entered your home. May the Lord equal the chasm she leaves. How we loved her! And We love and pray for you all.

Jo Shetler - March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NF

“ *What can be said about such a wonderful and strong woman of God? Words are difficult...She was such a loving and engaging aunt to us in our family and we will miss her greatly. Memories of coddled eggs, 'Monkey Bread' and many dinners over the years spent at the dinner table in lively conversation will be with us forever. So long, my sweet aunt Marilyn...save a seat for us in the choir! :D In love and admiration, Kathy,Leland, Lindsay and Erik*

Niece Kathleen Fernlund Cotten & family - March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *God Bless you not only in this time of loss but each day to follow. As much as Marilyn is missed we know in our hearts that she is at peace and resting in a wonderful spot. Her memories will be here a lifetime to come and may each time you think of her smiles fill your face and warm your heart. Heaven has received a beautiful new Angel and may she watch over us all and brighten our days. With love, Lynn, Eugene, Erika, Gregory, Steven and Warren Moore*

Lynn Moore - March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *It was a privilege to be able to read this beautiful tribute to Marilyn. What an amazing woman, mother, wife, grandmother, and friend she must have been. Brett and I are thinking of you all and send our condolences and love.*

Diane Larson - March 30, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KP

“ Our sympathy and love to each of Marilyn's family. During the years our lives touched we observed that she smiled her way into the hearts of everyone she met at home and in the world. She shared faith and fellowship and food - and her ability to teach English to those who want to communicate in a new language. Thanks be to God for Marilyn's life. Ken and Genevieve Peterson

Ken and Genevieve Peterson - March 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PO

“ Dear Bob, Sorry about the passing away of Marilyn but glad that she is now with our Lord. We enjoyed having the two of you on MMI projects. We will be leaving for Rwanda tomorrow and will work there till May 18th. Sorry we won't make it to the funeral. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Love, Pete and Judy

Pete and Judy Obregon - March 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SD

“ Dear Elizabeth, Your Mom left quite a legacy. My prayers are with you and your family.

Sharon Dumit - March 29, 2011 at 12:00 AM