



Irene Buch

October 29, 2018

Irene Buch
Swimming Instructor

Irene Ashmead Buch passed away in her home at the age of 94 on Monday, October 29, 2018.

Irene descended from one of Pennsylvania's oldest families who settled here in 1688. Born on March 31, 1924, in Philadelphia to Fredrick Ross and Helen Shute Ashmead, she moved to Lancaster at age five graduating from J.P. McCaskey High School in 1942. At the age of 17 Irene was an AAU nationally ranked swimmer competing in the 1939 National AAU competition in North Carolina.

Above all things, Irene was a dedicated teacher of swimming and for over 50 years passed this joy and love of swimming along to children and adults. She was a Red Cross Water Safety Instructor and for over 10 years ran the Red Cross Learn To Swim Program for Lancaster County. Irene was a swim instructor at Brookside Swim Club every summer; was a volunteer swim instructor at the YWCA; and was a volunteer swim instructor with Edna Schreiber for the Easter Seal Society's handicapped swim program. She also organized and coached the YWCA Swim Team.

Irene ran the first Pre-School Diagnostic programs administered by Dr. June Smith. She was later appointed by Jack Sippel to direct the Easter Seal Orthopedic and Language Motor Program, which she did for 14 years, retiring in 1986.

In the 1960's and 1970's Irene was a Girl Scout Troop leader and served on the Lancaster Girl Scout Council.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Jo Buch of Aurora, CO; son, Eric Ross Buch of Port Angeles, WA; grandson, Dustin Ross Buch of Washougal, WA and great-grandson, Hudson Ross Buch of Washougal, WA.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, pharmacist, Stanley J. Buch.

Irene enjoyed travel, going to the shore every summer (Wildwood, NJ as a child and Stone Harbor and Avalon, NJ as an adult); white water rafting; swimming with dolphins; camping in Hawaii, Canada, and New England; playing cards, and laughing with her many friends. Her greatest pride and joy was passing on her love of swimming to hundreds of children and adults.

Relatives and friends are respectfully invited to attend Irene's Memorial Service on Saturday, November 3, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. at Church of the Apostles, 1850 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA with Rev. Kathryn L. Kuhn officiating. Family will receive friends at the church from 3:00 p.m. until time of service. Irene requested for you to feel free to wear colorful and comfortable attire.

In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the American Red Cross, 1804 N. 6th Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102 or Girl Scouts Heart of Pennsylvania (GSHPA), 350 Hale Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17104-1518 Attn: Fund

Development.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 3. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Church of the Apostles UCC
1850 Marietta Ave
Lancaster, PA 17603

Service

NOV 3. 4:00 PM (ET)

Church of the Apostles UCC
1850 Marietta Ave
Lancaster, PA 17603

Tribute Wall



“ Irene Buch

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ I was privileged to meet Mrs. Buch as a high school intern at the S June Smith Preschool Diagnostic Center. Her great spirit and joy made what was often a sad situation a hopeful and promising one. I was inspired by her and have often wondered about her. I'm so glad to hear she enjoyed a long life filled with family and friends.

Patricia Kurek - November 18, 2018 at 12:21 PM



“ Irene was an inspiration to us Y swimmers. We marveled when she came to the pool well into her 90's. her spirit continues in all Y swimmers!
Tana Woodcock

Tana Woodcock - November 08, 2018 at 08:10 AM



“ Irene was a special woman. When I think of her, I smile. She was so upbeat and witty. It was a pleasure to be in her company. Irene was involved with the community and was an example of how we should live. I will miss her calling me, “Girvie”, when I came over to visit with Linda. She will be missed.
Love,
Diane

Diane Vickers - November 02, 2018 at 12:44 PM

TF

“ *The Gorski Family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Irene Buch.*



The Gorski Family - November 01, 2018 at 07:29 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Irene Buch.*



November 01, 2018 at 06:20 PM

CH

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting her and seeing her beautiful art work . I will always remember her kindness and patience . God bless*

chris Heilbock - November 01, 2018 at 05:24 PM

JE

“ *Ms Irene - What an honor to be able to share joy and memories with you and your family. I learned to enjoy life in the moment from you and to cherish the memories forever. I know every caregiver that was blessed to meet both you and Stan often begged to be able to be on your service. You brought life and adventure to each day. Thank you for sharing you with me. I know you are in heaven making fun shapes out of paper napkins and having so much joy as you finally rest in peace. All my love - Jean (Comfort Keepers)*

Jean - November 01, 2018 at 03:38 PM

LI

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Lisa - November 01, 2018 at 02:24 PM

RH

“ *Linda, I will be thinking of you as you process this significant loss. No one else will ever fill that mom-shaped void, but may you experience the love and support of many friends in the weeks ahead. I will be thinking of your mom this weekend while I watch the waves down on the Eastern Shore.*
Ray Huber

Ray Huber - November 01, 2018 at 12:01 PM

LB

Thank you so much, Ray! Irene always liked you and she would appreciate your thinking of her while contemplating the wonder of the sea.

Lind Buch - November 05, 2018 at 07:16 AM

SH

“ I have been privileged and honored to have personally known Irene for 40 years through my friendship with her daughter Linda. We have shared many laughs boating, at the shore and swimming with dolphins. Back in the 70’s Linda and I, along with Stan and Irene took my small water ski boat from Lake Washington, through the locks out into the harbor to watch the tall ships arrive. We were dwarfed by these mighty vessels and had a great time amongst them. Unfortunately the motor conked out on our way back and we had to get a tow all the way home! Both the senior Buch’s were in great spirits throughout the course of events and that is precisely how I remember Irene. Always with a smile on her face 😊 She will be deeply missed and always loved by everyone her life touched.

Sally Hay - October 31, 2018 at 10:05 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Irene Buch.



October 31, 2018 at 09:04 PM

PW

“ Irene is one of the most, amazing, inspiring people I have ever met, no matter how I felt when I entered her home, I always wound up with a smile not only on my face but in my heart. She touched my life in a special way, she will always have a place in my heart. When I grow up I want to be just like her. Living every moment to the fullest. God has another Angel in his choir today and her soul is at peace.

Patricia Watkins - October 31, 2018 at 10:02 AM

LO

“ I'm so very sorry to hear of Irene's passing. She and Stan were my wonderful neighbors and she gave my son swim lessons about 5 years ago. She was such a sweetheart and will definitely be missed. Linda and Eric, my deepest sympathies to you.

Lori Jackson

Lori - October 31, 2018 at 07:48 AM