



Marian Patton Hough

April 9, 2020

Minutes before the sun rose on Holy Thursday, Marian Patton Hough was released from the illnesses that long-held her body, spirit and mind hostage. This woman of great faith and goodness is surely soaring with the angels, an image of peace and joy for those who love and miss her most.

Marian died April 9, 2020, at age 87.

Born in Lancaster on July 4, 1932, to Charles P. and Naomi Hammond Patton, she was the youngest of three children and the couple's only daughter. Her Independence Day entrance ensured a lifetime of red, white and blue birthday cakes. If she longed for pastel-colored icing, she never complained.

Marian graduated from McCaskey High School, attended Lebanon Valley College, and graduated from Lancaster General Hospital School of Nursing. Her first job as an industrial nurse at Alcoa came at a time when RNs wore white starched caps and even whiter dresses, hosiery and shoes. Marian's no-nonsense approach to health care was balanced by a loving and empathetic bedside manner.

In 1955, friends introduced Marian to a mustachioed, motorcycle-riding, leather-jacket-wearing seminary student from Illinois. Marian and M. Melvin Hough knew within a week that theirs would be a shared lifetime. Mel sold his Triumph to buy Marian's engagement ring; her parents initially worked to slow the wedding plans. Mel and Marian, of Homestead Village, would have celebrated 64 years of marriage on June 2.

With a partnership built on love and guided by faith, they served churches in Sumner, Shabbona, Sterling and Prophetstown, Illinois, as well as in Lancaster at Covenant United Methodist Church, where Marian was reared and was a member at her death. Marian worked at LGH and Illinois hospitals in Lawrenceville and DeKalb. She retired as a nurse manager at CGH Medical Center in Sterling, a community she served through numerous organizations including the YWCA as its president.

Marian cherished being a pastor's wife, a role that was difficult for her to relinquish in retirement. She was a summer church camp counselor, Bible study leader, Sunday school teacher and vacation Bible school coordinator. She sang in the choir and directed children's Christmas pageants. Marian occasionally preached from the pulpit. A truly faithful servant of God, she held the hands of the sick, cooked for new parents, counseled troubled parishioners and younger nursing colleagues, and prayed with the families of those whose deaths were imminent. The lonely and homeless often found a seat at her family's Sunday dinner table.

Marian's children will remember her soft touch, her easy and unconditional love. So, too, her apple pies and pickled red beets and strawberry jam. She was a hugger; those who offered her a lackluster embrace were sure to get a tutorial. She was a teetotaler who didn't swear, dance or play cards, reasons her kids teasingly called her Saint Marian. She was always tired; she loved to take naps. Never was she more comfortable than when shuffling around the house in a robe and slippers. Her passion was always caring for others.

If she were here, Marian the nurse would join her husband and their family in praising and thanking health care professionals at Homestead Village, LGH, and Hospice & Community Care for their expertise and gentle kindness.

In addition to her husband, Marian is survived by three children: Barbara, wife of Dr. Gerald G. Huesken, Lancaster; D. Mark, husband of Sheila (Anderson), Lititz; and Beth, wife of Leopold Gorecki, Yardley; six grandchildren, Audrey Bonchack (Matthew); Jonathan Palomarez (Elizabeth); Amy Stoltzfus (Robert); Rachel and Aaron Gorecki; and Faith Roda; and five great-grandchildren, Natalie, Alice and Lucas Bonchack, and Caleb and Riley Palomarez. She is also survived by brothers, Jay, husband of the late Phyllis Patton, New Holland, and James, husband of Jean Patton, Lancaster. A niece and nephews also survive.

Following health guidelines, Marian's memorial service will be announced at a later date. Private interment will be in Paradise Mennonite Cemetery.

Donations in Marian's memory can be made to the Homestead Endowment Fund at Homestead Village, 1800 Village Circle, Lancaster, PA 17603.

Tribute Wall



“ *Marian Patton Hough*

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM



“ *I see this beautiful photo of Marian and I want to hug her one more time! She is one of*

the most precious woman I have ever known. Not only was Marion a wonderful mentor to

me professionally, but was also as a dear friend, my life is for the better because of her.

What a gift of time the Lord gave us to all who knew her and worked with her all those

years at CGH. May the Lord comfort you Mel, Barb, Mark ,Beth and your families.

Love, Cheri Book

Cheri Book - May 14, 2020 at 07:42 PM



Cheri: It is soooo good to hear from you. You were a big part of Mom's life, first as my good high school pal and then as her colleague. Thank you, thank you for taking the time to share what she meant to your life. My love to you and your family!! Barb

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 03:56 PM



“ *This is the most beautiful obituary I have ever read. Marion taught me the meaning of the word "wonderful ". I remember her saying, "doesn't that just cover it all?". I use that word often, and think of her. Thanks to Mel and Marion for being so much a part of my life. God's peace to you, Mel. Peace to her wonderful family.*

Jan Kniss

Jan Kniss - May 05, 2020 at 05:38 PM

BH

Mom's own beauty made her obituary an easy one to write. She talked about you so much, Jan. Thank you for being such a bright, "wonderful" light in Mom and Dad's life. We are still struggling to push forward in a world without them. But as we are reminded over and over of the loving, positive influence they had on so many, we realize that they are very much with us. Thank you! Warmly, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:01 PM

SA

“ Dear Mel and family,
Jack and I are so sorry to hear of Marion's passing. She was very kind to me. Once at church in Sterling our baby was very fussy and I took him out of the service. She spoke with me after and said that a baby was always welcome and that I should always bring him. We always did.
Please accept our condolences.
Sheila and Jack Allen

Sheila Allen - April 22, 2020 at 10:28 PM

BH

Thank you, Sheila, for your lovely memory of Mom. Her kind and caring ways were at the essence of who she was as a wife, mother, nurse and friend. On behalf of my entire family, thank you for remembering her with heartfelt words. Warmly, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:05 PM

MD

“ I was so saddened to hear of the loss of a very special lady!!! I had the pleasure of working with Marian at CGH and was honored to write her story for a class for my BSN degree. She was one of us good old fashioned nurses! Hugs to you Mel and to your children. My thoughts and prayers are with you.

Mary Jean Derreberry - April 18, 2020 at 09:17 PM

BH

Our family is so appreciative of your thoughts about Mom. We miss her terribly! Our dad passed away a week ago today. The grief has been overwhelming but our love for them lives on -- as we know they do, together. Warmly, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:08 PM

DR

“ Hough children please accept our sincere sympathies on the passing of your sweet mother. We were members of the Prophetstown Congregational church. I (Debbie) was one of the lucky few that got to go fishing with your dad on the private fishing lake in Shabbona. Our family also went to the boundary waters with your dad. Such wonderful memories of a great couple. Our prayers have been with your dad at this time also. Deb and Don Robinson

Deb Robinson - April 17, 2020 at 12:10 PM

BH

Oh, Debbie, thank you for this. What wonderful memories. As you know, our dad died just one week ago today. Your husband also shared warm memories on Dad's tribute wall -- memories that made me smile. Dad so treasured going back to Shabbona to fish at the Purdy lake. We had many family picnics and fishing outings there. Mom and Dad loved, loved their friends in Prophetstown. I hope you know that!. Thank you, thank you!! Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:16 PM

MA

“ Dear Mel, I sent a note to your children but I wanted you to know also how sad I am about your loss. Marian was such a lovely lady & I will truly miss her. I hope you will soon be well again. I know you miss her as I miss Bob--someday we'll all be together again in Heaven. I pray for you daily. Please accept my deepest sympathy

Love, Mary Anne Aichele

Mary Anne Aichele - April 15, 2020 at 09:20 AM

BH

Mrs. Aichele: Thank you for taking the time to reach out. It has taken me a while to be able to respond to the outpouring of love for Mom ... and now Dad. Thank you for being such a good neighbor and friend. Warmly, Barbara

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:17 PM

KR

“ The Grummert family in Sterling sends our sincere Sympathy on the loss of your wife, mother, and grandmother. We have so many fond memories of her at the Congregational Church!



Kelly Reynolds - April 14, 2020 at 12:26 PM

BH

*Thank you, Kelly. There is a hole in our lives, now bigger because of Dad's death a week ago. But we are certainly comforted by the kind words and memories. Warmly,
Barbara Hough Huesken*

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:20 PM

MA

“*Dear Barbara & siblings, I loved your Mother & Father--they were my next door neighbors, here at Homestead Village for 1 1/2 years. They were always so friendly and made us feel welcome to the neighborhood. Bob & I were always so social but since he was sick, as a couple we couldn't be. I was sad when they were leaving & stopped over & had a long conversation with both of them. We said goodbye with tears in our eyes. Too bad your Dad isn't doing well either. You Mom & my husband are probably reuniting in Heaven. We all know they're in a better place, but I still miss Bob terribly & I know you feel the same about your Mother. My prayers are with you--glad I had a chance to know you, Barbara--you were a great daughter. Love, Mary Anne Aichele*

Mary Anne Aichele - April 13, 2020 at 04:33 PM

DC

“*As friends and fellow residents at Homestead Village we are saddened at the passing of Marion. She and Mel were dear friends and we will miss her smiling face and sweet "Hellos" each time we met. We extend our deepest sympathy to Mel and all your family at this sad time.*

Dolly & Arch Cross

Dolly & Arch Cross - April 13, 2020 at 01:51 PM

BH

*Thank you for your caring words. It is hard to fully express the extent of our grief as we mourn Mom, and now Dad, particularly in these times of isolation. But the kindness of so many is helping to make our path forward softer and gentler. With gratitude,
Barbara Hough Huesken*

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:25 PM

CS

“*Working as a CNA at cgh medical center I met Marion whom was kind, compassionate and a great listener..I learned a lot from her and will always cherish the memories...*

connie stern - April 13, 2020 at 09:52 AM

BH

Mom really was a great listener, wasn't she? Thank you for sharing what she meant to your life. Your words offer comfort and peace to my family and me. With gratitude, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:28 PM

LM

“ Marion was my mentor when I became a supervisor. She taught me many life tips. She was the reason that my first baby was born at the hospital and not at home, all because she made me drive to Sterling to be checked when I called off for the night CCU shift. God bless her!

LuAnn Meyer - April 13, 2020 at 09:02 AM

BH

I love knowing these stories. Thank you! We always thought our Mom was the best ... and even now we are learning so much more from those who were lovingly touched by her life. With gratitude, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:33 PM

BB

“ my deepest sympathy to mel and family. I worked with marian and she taught me a lot about love and caring. we had some great memories

barbara barton - April 12, 2020 at 10:54 PM

BH

Loving and caring ... that pretty much says it all when it comes to our mom. Thank you for reaching out. We are most appreciative. Warmly, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:35 PM

TM

“ We have very fond memories of Marion. She was a wonderful, compassionate person. I will always remember the conversations we had. She was one of the last nurses I remember wearing the cap we worked so hard to get. Sympathy to Mel and family. Fondly, Tim and Lori Mathews

tim and Lori Mathews - April 12, 2020 at 02:55 PM

BH

Thank you for taking the time to write. Yes, she earned that cap and was determined to keep wearing it. We miss her so much but remind ourselves that she was struggling mightily in the last months and especially the final days of her life. Our dad passed away just a week ago, and we find comfort in knowing that they are healthy once again and with each other. With gratitude, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:38 PM

LW

“ I have very fond memories of working with Marian during her time at CGH Medical center. My sympathies to her family. Lynn Wiebenga

Lynn Wiebenga - April 12, 2020 at 01:25 PM

BH

Thank you, Lynn, for remembering our mom in such a kind way. We miss her a ton. But we will carry her with us always. Warmly and with gratitude, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:40 PM

JA

“ Dear Reverend Mel and Family
You have the love and prayers of your Church family at Shabbona United Church of Christ. I trust God's grace will provide comfort at this time. I know the Shabbona community is grieving along with you.

Philippians 4:8-9

God bless

Pastor Jim Allen

Shabbona United Church of Christ

Shabbona, Illinois

James Allen - April 12, 2020 at 09:12 AM

NS

Heartfelt sympathies to Mel and family. Marion was nurse supervisor at CGH during my employment there. She always wore a smile and had a caring heart for patients and the staff! I will carry fond memories of Marion always 🙏

Nancy Seyller - April 12, 2020 at 02:13 PM

BM

I was so saddened to hear of Marians passing. She and your family will always have a special place in my heart. Of course I will never forget her kindness to Nancy and I when we were little girls and homesick at church camp. My heartfelt condolences for your loss and prayers for comfort to you all. With love, Beth Mullins Hanson

Beth Mullins - April 13, 2020 at 03:22 AM

BH

Thank you all for your kind words. They are truly a comfort to our family. The loss of Mom, and now our dad just one week ago, seems almost cruel. But we know they are together and healthy. With much appreciation and wonderful memories of childhood in Illinois, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:43 PM

JG

“ Dear Barb and Faith,
Sorry to read of your loved ones passing. I know you are a close and loving family, and that your mom played a great role in who you are and the strength you have exhibit for the sake of others.
Hugs,
Jerry Greiner and Susan Shearer

Jerry greiner - April 12, 2020 at 08:48 AM

BH

Thank you, Jerry and Susan. Mom's death has been compounded by the passing of our dad a week ago. It's been overwhelming particularly at a time when we are isolated from family members and friends. But we also know that we were blessed to have wonderful parents who we will carry with us always. Thank you for reaching out.
Love, Barb

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:48 PM

JR

“ A very sweet kind lady and nurse supervisor, our deepest sympathy

judy Repass - April 11, 2020 at 09:04 PM

BH

We appreciate your condolences. I am recognizing that while I was fortunate to have my mom for 60 years, it's never long enough. I miss her! With gratitude for your words,
Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:50 PM

CG

“ So sad to hear of Marian passing, she was one great lady, taught me so much thru the years at CGH, my thoughts and prayers are with the family!

Connie Geerts - April 11, 2020 at 07:55 PM

BH

Thank you, Connie. I agree, she was one great lady. I am so grateful that you took the time to reach out to us. We need this right now, and appreciate it more than I can convey. Warmly, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 04:53 PM

JA

“ *Marian was my favorite nurse manager at CGH. She was always ready to teach and was so loving and kind.* ”



Jan Anderson - April 11, 2020 at 05:56 PM

AS

So very sorry to hear of your sister's passing Mark. You and your family will be in my prayers.

Andy Smith - April 11, 2020 at 06:15 PM

CH

So loved our times together at CGH. As nurses, we shared LOTS of caring, hardwork, hugs & laughs! She was a loving soul! My sympathy to your entire family. She will be missed by MANY! Prayers coming your way to comfort you & bring you peace 🙏

Cris Hicks - April 12, 2020 at 01:55 PM

RC

Wishing I could find an appropriate way to honor Marian and Pastor Hough and failing to find the fully satisfactory manner to do so, posted this on my Facebook Page and that of our church.

I know that I do not speak only for myself when I speak of how truly valued their lives and service are to so many.

"Many of you in the community will remember two of our predecessors here at The Big Red Church, Rev. Mel and Marian Hough.

I did not know them personally, but I want to honor their service. The Houghs served The Big Red Church and our communities well from 1973-1987, They had an outstanding career, serving area churches, and others, bringing credit to themselves and the cause of Christ..

Examining history and looking back can be an instructive thing. I don't believe they received the credit and appreciation they deserved. I am grateful that God is faithful to remember our degree of effort and sincerity. Knowing that our "labor is not in vain in the Lord", I am certain Marian's homegoing was met with fanfare and a pleased Savior and Lord that welcomed her.."

*Rev. Jeffery Coester, Pastor
First Congregational United Church of Christ
Sterling, IL*

Rev. Jeff Coester - April 14, 2020 at 09:48 AM

BH

Thank you for the kind words about my mother. As you may know, my father died on May 8, just one week ago. They were true servants of the Lord, individuals my brother, sister and I were blessed and honored to call Mom and Dad. Their ministry in churches across Illinois, in Pennsylvania and through retirement was pure testament to the power of committed faith, sacrificial love, enduring stewardship and pure forgiveness. Still, they were cruelly treated by some in the Sterling church at the end of their ministry there. I thank you, Rev. Coester, for acknowledging the credit and appreciation that was denied them. They, however, soared far beyond it all. Hallelujah! Out of respect to them, let us leave it there. Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 05:31 PM

SF

“ *Mark, Shelia and fami,y we are so sorry to hear of your mother’s passing! Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you! Shirley and Flick* ❤️❤️🙏🙏

shirley flickinger - April 11, 2020 at 04:24 PM

BH

Thank you for your kind words! Warmly, Barbara Hough Huesken

Barbara Hough Huesken - May 15, 2020 at 05:31 PM