



Margaret Gottschalk

July 15, 1943 - April 1, 2025

In Loving Memory of Margaret Elizabeth Gottschalk

Margaret Elizabeth Gottschalk

July 15, 1943 – April 1, 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Margaret, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and friend, who passed away on April 1, 2025 at the age of 81.

Born on July 15, 1943, in Whitewater, Wisconsin, Margaret led a life rooted in service, compassion, and joyful connection. From 1963 to 1966, she proudly served in the United States Navy as a data processing technician, where she met the love of her life, Bill. Together, they built a life of adventure, purpose and love. That included walking across the floor of an active volcano and sneaking pineapples straight from the field in Hawaii. Traveling through Ireland in a horse drawn wagon, touring England and Wales on a canal boat. She might even have spotted the Loch Ness monster in Scotland. In retirement, Margaret and Bill enjoyed cross country motorcycle trips visiting all 48 states in the continental U.S.

Margaret's sense of service continued throughout her life. She worked at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, and served as an ombudsman for the U.S. Naval facility in Brawdy, Wales. Deeply committed to her community, she volunteered with the St. Vincent de Paul Society,

supported friends and neighbors after a devastating tornado, and was passionate in her support of the homeowner advocates in The Villages, Florida.

Margaret is known for her bright smile. She brought warmth and joy to others, finding happiness in reading, gardening, sewing, pickleball, and golf. She was even known to be a bit of a pool shark. Margaret cherished big family gatherings filled with mayhem, laughter and love. Her kindness, strength, and spirited humor will live on.

Margaret is survived by her devoted husband Bill, her loving children Bill and Christine, her grandchildren - who were the light of her life - and her siblings John, Mary Jean, and Rebecca McLean. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

She is preceded in death by her mother Jean Ford Carter, her father William Menzie McLean, and her brothers Bill Jay and Thomas McLean.

A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered.

Services will be held at Beyers Funeral Home on Tuesday April 8, 2025 at 2:00-4:00pm. A Catholic Mass will be held at Saint Timothy's at 8:30am on April 9, 2025.

In honor of Margaret, donations may be made in lieu of flowers to Cornerstone Hospice or SonRise Respite Program through the Lake Deaton United Methodist Church (note that your donation is specifically for the "SonRise" program).

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 8. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Beyers Funeral Home & Crematory - Lady Lake
134 N US Highway 441
Lady Lake, FL 32159
(352) 753-4444

Catholic Mass

APR 9. 8:30 AM (ET)

St. Timothy Catholic Church
1351 Paige Pl
Lady Lake, FL 32159
(352) 753-0989

Tribute Wall



“ *Beyers Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Margaret Gottschalk*



Beyers Funeral Home - April 09, 2025 at 02:16 PM

MW

“ *I'll always remember and cherish the beautiful mat Margaret made for me to use at my pet therapy visits.*



Marleen Wiggins - April 08, 2025 at 07:49 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Margaret Gottschalk.*

April 08, 2025 at 06:33 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Margaret Gottschalk.*



April 08, 2025 at 06:33 AM

JM

“ Our family visit to Hawaii. Bill got a 'local' roomy six pack with the kids isolated in the back. The kids frolicing in all the beaches. Mary finding the 'secret' Hawaiian restaurant and then coming home to quiet kids that had broken a table. The adults laughed.

John, Mary & Mary's sister visiting England when Bill was stationed in Wales. We went to that fancy restaurant overlooking Hyde Park. Bill drove us through southern England to Wales. Visited Pembroke castle. Road the night train back to London.

Just the family visits. The kids cooking their own steaks at 'Moms". Chrissy always just one of the guys; Billy, Matt, David, Rob and the rabbit that thought he was just another guy.

Too many more memories to mention.

Brother John

John McLean - April 07, 2025 at 11:42 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Margaret Gottschalk.

April 07, 2025 at 11:17 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Margaret Gottschalk.*



April 07, 2025 at 11:17 AM



“ *Margaret was probably the best neighbor we have ever had. We shared giggles, anger and jokes over the years. If you went to Margaret's house, (even if you had been there a few hours before) she would greet you with her beautiful smile and make you feel special! She was special! I'll miss her.*

Mary and Bill Gaddis - April 06, 2025 at 01:19 PM



“ *Margaret was such a lovely lady. I remember her gentle kindness from many days at the Humane Society. She had the most beautiful smile. Deepest condolences to Bill and family.*
Celine (Petrie) Preston

Celine Preston - April 05, 2025 at 11:43 AM



“ *Humane Society of Sumter County purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Margaret Gottschalk.*



Humane Society of Sumter County - April 04, 2025 at 09:23 AM

LM

“ Love Judy and Paul Murphy purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Margaret Gottschalk.



Love Judy and Paul Murphy - April 04, 2025 at 09:21 AM

CG

“ We will always miss our dear sister-in-law, Margaret, with her famous beaming smile and her gentle way. We cherish all the fun we've had over the last several years triking, boating and of course eating and chatting afterwards. Thank you, Bill, for coming to The Villages and allowing us to get to know you and Margaret much better. She was a special person and your loss is our loss.
Bob and Cindy

Cindy Gottschalk - April 03, 2025 at 11:32 PM

SH

“ Margaret will always remain in my heart. Other angels will be jealous of her wonderful smile!

sherry - April 03, 2025 at 04:57 PM

RF

“ Margaret was very sweet, I remember joining her while walking her dogs & chatting. My fondest memory of Margaret was going to the Alexa Rosary group every Lent .She was a very Spiritual lady. , she will be missed . Rita & Vinnie Ferrari

Rita & Vinnie Ferrari - April 03, 2025 at 03:40 PM

MK

Margaret was a very sweet and kind lady She always had a smile for everyone

Margaret Koll - April 03, 2025 at 07:44 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Margaret Gottschalk.*



April 03, 2025 at 03:19 PM

DL

“ *She was always so nice to us when we first moved into Alexa. One of my favorite memories was when I went into the house to see her memory wall and I mentioned how patriotic it was and how proud she must be to be a veteran. She stood right up and saluted the flag. She wasn't communicating much then but her patriotism was still very visible.*

Donna LeBuis

Donna LeBuis - April 03, 2025 at 08:31 AM

AC

We will always remember our dear friend and neighbor Margaret. In the early days of Alexa Villas on Sunday afternoons when the four of us ventured out in an attempt to conquer Silver Lake or Hilltop; although we failed miserably we enjoyed laughter and lunch afterward. Margaret always welcomed us anytime we stopped to chat. She had a twinkle in her eye and an infectious smile. Thank you for your friendship over these many years. We wish you "fair winds and following seas" as you journey home to our Lord. In sympathy, Anita and Richard Cody

Anita Cody - April 03, 2025 at 12:10 PM

AM

“ 8 files added to the album Memories



Alana Madding - April 02, 2025 at 07:23 PM

JJ

“ We will always remember Margaret for her kindness, love of her husband, family, her dogs and her gentleness. Our lives are richer for having known her. Kevin and Judy Johnston

Judith Johnston - April 02, 2025 at 07:22 PM

CR

“ Margaret so enjoyed her tranquility garden at her home. She had such a pleasant disposition and always had a smile to share. Margaret, you will be missed and fondly remembered. Cheryl & Jeff Roels

Cheryl & Jeff Roels - April 02, 2025 at 06:53 PM

MR

Margaret was a wonderful neighbor to us in the Alexa Villas. I will always remember her smile and her concern for others. She was a blessing to many and will be missed.

Maureen Ramsett - April 02, 2025 at 08:43 PM