



Marilyn Hoffman

March 15, 1934 - December 29, 2024

Marilyn Ann (Reynolds) Hoffman, 90, passed away Sunday, December 29, 2024, in Billings, Montana, with her family by her side.

A Vigil Service will be held at 7pm on Friday, January 3, 2025 in the Chapel of the Silha Funeral Home, Glendive, with Visitation preceding the Vigil from 6-7pm. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10am on January 4, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church with Fr. Francis Schreiber officiating. The Rite of Committal will be held in the Dawson County Cemetery where Marilyn will be laid to rest next to her husband of 54 years, Jim. Silha Funeral Home of Glendive has been entrusted with the arrangements.

Marilyn was born March 15, 1934 — the youngest of Frank and Tillie Reynolds's six kids. She grew up helping her dad and siblings in the F.T. Reynolds Grocery stores her dad founded 100 years ago. She always said that she didn't know bananas were yellow until she got married as they only got black leftover ones as kids. After graduating from Dawson County High School, Marilyn started college at St. Catherine's University in Minnesota before attending Montana State College in Bozeman where she earned a degree in home economics.

Marilyn was recruited for her first teaching job as a home economics teacher in Lodge Grass, Montana. There, she met a handsome teacher and coach,

James “Jim” Hoffman, who would eventually become her husband in 1957. Over the years, they moved multiple times as Jim transitioned from teaching to administration, with roles in Shepherd, Belfry, and Baker. His work finally brought Marylin back home to Glendive in 1970. Marylin spent most of the rest of her life at their family’s home on Dilworth where all of us have countless precious memories of Marylin holding court in the kitchen and Jim watching football in the den.

It was in that house that Marylin and Jim raised their four daughters. As educators, Marylin and Jim encouraged their daughters to excel in school. To her daughters and, later, to nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren, Marylin would quip “learn a little, learn a lot, give it all you’ve got!” as the kids headed out the door to school.

A curious mind and life-long learner herself, Marylin’s bedroom, den, and basement “messy room” (the mention of which in this obituary may prompt Marylin to haunt us from the grave, but was a favorite place for grandkids to explore) were full of books, both serious — like those on Abraham Lincoln, whom she deeply admired — and light — like the murder mysteries she avidly read. Marylin also loved traveling and claimed she could be packed for Europe in 20 minutes. Over her lifetime, Marylin tested that claim many times, traveling to multiple European countries, Venezuela to visit their exchange student Carlos, and across the United States.

Marylin loved all animals — often leaving food out for neighborhood wildlife and giving her sons-in-law grief for enjoying hunting while ironically liking nothing more to eat than a hamburger. But she especially adored cats. She had many cats over the years named Rosie, named originally after a football player (Rosey Grier) she liked after hearing he liked to crochet and knit; she was amused by the juxtaposition of this big burly football player doing needlepoint. Marylin was no slouch at a sewing machine, either, and often

sewed beautifully crafted Halloween costumes for her kids and grandkids. Marylin loved coffee at any hour of the day, to the extent that it was her main source of hydration for her whole adult life.

While she had these many deep interests, no Earthly passion of Marylin's exceeded her love of people. This was primarily manifested in her devotion to family. Besides being deeply involved in her kids' lives as they grew up, she continued her role as matriarch of her family by driving and/or flying hours to attend grandchildren's activities. Marylin labored hours over "luggage" she made for each child's and grandchild's high school graduation. These were multiple cardboard boxes she painstakingly decoupage'd with photos, comic strips, programs from concerts, newspaper cutouts of childhood accomplishments, and quotes cut out of magazines. These heirlooms will be treasured for the rest of our lives. Marylin also got great joy out of arranging family "Ho Ho Ho" concerts for which she had matching shirts embroidered where her kids and grandkids performed Christmas carols on piano, instruments, and vocals for her and Jim. Throughout her life, she slyly told us to "not get wet" as we headed to the pool, worried her hair looked like the "wrath of God," called others "sweetie pies," and called herself Grandma Dear Darling.

Beyond family, Marylin's love of people allowed her to make a friend of any stranger — whether they met in the aisles of Reynold's Grocery, while traveling, or in the pew in front of her standard spot in the back right corner of Sacred Heart Church. This gift of gab extended even into her final years where her quick wit — maintained despite dementia — endeared her to her assisted living staff.

One of the primary ways Marylin expressed her love was through cooking. Marylin's kitchen was affectionately known as "Mama's Cafe." Marylin

unfailingly had a sandwich on the table protected by a pot lid by the time Jim came home from work for lunch. She'd tease that Jim needed her cooking because he didn't even know where they kept the ice. He'd tease her back by asking if the apple pies she made were from canned apples. Marilyn made everything from scratch. She cooked unbelievable holiday meals, and was always the last to sit down, having made sure everyone else was cared for first. Her love of cooking led to an extensive cookbook collection, most of which were filled with notes she scratched in the margins. Showing love through food extended to "junk food day" where she took the grandkids out to Reynolds and told them they could pick out any 3 or so junk foods they wanted, often breaking her self-imposed limit when grandkids couldn't decide between two items. Marilyn's most beloved recipes were hand-copied into a cookbook by Jim before his passing and our cooking of those recipes will keep her memory alive for decades to come.

Marilyn was a devout Catholic. Beside religiously attending the Saturday vigil mass every week, Marilyn was a routine participant in patriotic Rosary at Sacred Heart and always said "God Bless America" after finishing the Catholic blessing before meals. She standardly uttered "God give me strength" every time any of us tested her patience. We have no doubt Marilyn's reliance on God and dedication to her faith earned her a spot in Heaven. No words can adequately capture just how much we will miss her, but her outsized impact on those she left behind will always survive and we know she'll be up there convincing God to give us strength over the years to come.

Marilyn is survived by Cindy and Duane Zimmerman (Billings) and children Sarah (Matt, Emma, Josh, and Sophia), Danny, and Katy; Darcy and Dave Crum (Great Falls) and children Ellie and Molly (Victor); Lori and Kevin Billings (Bozeman) and children Drew (Paige) and Catherine (Jack); and Denise Hoffman (Sandy, UT) and children Paul and Matthew.

Should you choose, memorials may be made to Sacred Heart Catholic Church, PO Box 36, Glendive, MT 59330. Remembrances and condolences may be shared with the family at www.silhafuneralhomes.com.

Cemetery Details

Dawson County Cemetery

Corner of North Sargent Ave. and East Allard
Street
Glendive, MT 59330

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 3. 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM (MT)

Silha Funeral Homes - Glendive, Montana
221 N. Meade Avenue
P.O. Box 848
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 377-2622
silha@midrivers.com
<https://www.silhafuneralhomes.com>

Vigil Service

JAN 3. 7:00 PM (MT)

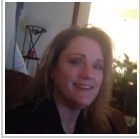
Silha Funeral Homes - Glendive, Montana
221 N. Meade Avenue
P.O. Box 848
Glendive, MT 59330
(406) 377-2622
silha@midrivers.com
<https://www.silhafuneralhomes.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JAN 4. 10:00 AM (MT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
316 West Benham Street
Glendive, MT 59330

Tribute Wall



“ *Linda Woodward lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hoffman*



Linda Woodward - January 17, 2025 at 08:38 PM

JR

“ *So sad to learn of Marilyn's passing. She and Mom were such good friends from way back! I hope Norma Jean and Marilyn are once again playing sports together!!*

Judy Rowse - January 13, 2025 at 06:13 PM

KP

“ *My heart goes out to the Hoffman family. Your Mom & Dad were part of my childhood memories growing up. Now they are together. They were both great people. God Bless you*

Krista Newton Page - January 09, 2025 at 01:12 PM

JS

“ *Prayer and hugs extended to each of you!! I can honestly say Marilyn was a treasure! I looked so forward to our bi weekly visits. She made each Thursday exciting, Full of life, laughs, smile's and Blessings!! Heaven has gained a very special angel!! Thank you for sharing her!!*



Jacky Boje Saur - January 04, 2025 at 11:33 PM

MH

“ Marvin and Sue Howe lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hoffman



Marvin and Sue Howe - January 04, 2025 at 04:42 PM

AF

“ Hoffman family.. I am so sorry for your loss. Your Mom was a wonderful lady. I have known your family since I was a child. I remember her being my 4H leader. She was soo kind and patient with me. I'm sure that wasn't always easy. 😊 Please know I am thinking about you and you are all 8n my tho7ghts and prayers 🙏❤️🙏



Ann (Hathaway) Frazer - January 04, 2025 at 11:07 AM

NM

“ Nancy Mischel-Keller lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hoffman



Nancy Mischel-Keller - January 03, 2025 at 10:46 PM

KR

“ *The Hoffman family has a special place in my heart, having grown up across the street on Dilworth. Marilyn was a stellar individual, always friendly, positive and so energetic. She was an incredibly devoted mother who supported and encouraged her girls in every possible way. A ‘role model mom’ for sure. Cindy, Darcy, Lori and Denise please know how sad I am you’ve lost your dear mom. Sending you love and strength as you grieve this significant loss. May she rest in peace.*

Kristi Bergland Ragar - January 03, 2025 at 08:06 PM

LP

“ *LuAnn Price lit a candle in memory of Marylin Hoffman*



LuAnn Price - January 03, 2025 at 07:07 PM

LS

“ *Love and prayers, Eileen and Scout planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marylin Hoffman.*

Love and prayers, Eileen and Scout - January 02, 2025 at 03:13 PM

LS

“ *Love and prayers, Eileen and Scout purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Marylin Hoffman.*



Love and prayers, Eileen and Scout - January 02, 2025 at 03:13 PM

FR

“ *Fran and Lacey Robinson purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Marilyn Hoffman.*



Fran and Lacey Robinson - January 02, 2025 at 02:19 PM

DW

“ *Dave & Patty Winchell lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hoffman*



Dave & Patty Winchell - January 02, 2025 at 01:31 PM

JL

“ *Janette Legato lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hoffman*



Janette Legato - January 02, 2025 at 01:17 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marilyn Hoffman.*



January 02, 2025 at 10:42 AM

EW

“ Marilyn was a friend for years in Glendive. She was there for me when Paul passed away and I wish I could be there for her family now. She was very kind and giving. My prayers are with all of you on the loss of your mother



Elizabeth Winhofer - January 01, 2025 at 12:35 PM

PM

“ So sorry to hear about Marilyn, she was always so kind when I was home to visit mom in Glendive, had a smile and wave at church every Saturday. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time



Patti (Winhofer) Metz - January 01, 2025 at 12:31 PM

DZ

“ We always enjoyed our conversations with Marylin when we saw her. She was always upbeat and made you smile while talking with her. She and Jim raised an amazing family! God's blessings to her children and grandchildren.



Don and Penny Zimmerman - January 01, 2025 at 11:08 AM

GP

“ Our thoughts and prayers to the Family!



Ginger and Kelly Pulse - January 01, 2025 at 10:49 AM

GK

“ Grace Koffler lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hoffman



Grace Koffler - January 01, 2025 at 08:12 AM

DS

“ Denise Stoddart lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hoffman



Denise Stoddart - January 01, 2025 at 12:12 AM

JB

“ jim and Alice Bachmeier lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hoffman



jim and Alice Bachmeier - December 31, 2024 at 06:59 PM

JB

“ jim and alice bachmeier lit a candle in memory of Marilyn Hoffman



jim and alice bachmeier - December 31, 2024 at 06:58 PM

MO

“ *Mary Ann and Ray O'Donnell lit a candle in memory of Marylin Hoffman*



Mary Ann and Ray O'Donnell - December 31, 2024 at 02:30 PM

TH

“ *Tracey Hughes-Sand lit a candle in memory of Marylin Hoffman*



Tracey Hughes-Sand - December 31, 2024 at 01:00 PM

KS

“ *Cindy, Darcy, Lori and Denise I am sorry to hear of your mother's passing and will keep you and your families in my thoughts and prayers. She was a wonderful lady and a terrific mother.*



Karen Shanley - December 31, 2024 at 12:28 PM



“ *Andeen Raymond lit a candle in memory of Marylin Hoffman*



Andeen Raymond - December 31, 2024 at 10:08 AM

FF

“ F.T.Reynolds Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Marylin Hoffman.

F.T.Reynolds Family - December 30, 2024 at 11:37 PM

FF

“ F.T.Reynolds Family purchased the Lily and Rose Tribute Spray for the family of Marylin Hoffman.



F.T.Reynolds Family - December 30, 2024 at 11:37 PM

 Terri Winhofer LeSueur

“ I remember her as my 4-H leader. She was a great lady. I always enjoyed chatting with her at church when I came back to see my mom. Cindy, Darcy, Lori and Denise know you are in my prayers during this difficult time.

Terri Winhofer LeSueur - December 30, 2024 at 09:20 PM



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

December 30, 2024 at 05:56 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Marylin Hoffman.



December 30, 2024 at 05:56 PM