

Maureen Susan (O'Brien) Watson



Maureen Watson

MADISON — Maureen Susan (O'Brien) Watson died Thursday, January 9, 2003, after a brief and painless battle with cancer.

Maureen was born on April 8, 1938, in Eau Claire, Wis., and was the first child of Jack and Gunhild O'Brien. She married James Watson on June 13, 1959, in Eau Claire; and last summer they celebrated their 43rd anniversary.

Maureen graduated from Regis High School in Eau Claire in 1956, and received a B.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire in 1960, with honors. She taught for many years at Chippewa Valley Technical College during which time she received an educational specialist degree from the University of Wisconsin-Stout. Maureen was president of her teachers' union for many years.

Although she enjoyed her academic and career achievements, her real focus in life was her family, especially her children and grandchildren. She taught them the values of honesty and hard work and the importance of doing what is right, not what is easy. Maureen was the heart of our family, generous and involved in our day-to-day lives. We will miss her intelligence, humor, beauty, warmth and outgoing personality. She was happiest surrounded by her family, even though she occasionally had to referee a hot card game.

Maureen was very active in politics, women's issues and the civil rights movement. She loved to read and was an expert in Victorian antiques, especially art glass. She had a passion for nature and took great care of her beautiful flower garden and her beloved Lake Eau Claire cottage.

She was preceded in death by her father, Jack O'Brien.

Survivors include her husband, James of Madison; mother, Gunhild of Eau Claire; brother, John (Josiane) O'Brien of Paris, France; sister, Patrice (Wayne) Neiter of Eau Claire; her four children, Catherine (Andreas) Friedl, John Watson, Diane (Christopher) Blythe, all of Madison, and David (Julie) Watson of Rochester, Minn.; ten grandchildren, Alexander, Christina and Peter Friedl, Michael, David and Kelly Watson, Adam Watson and Krystal Hawkins and Sean and Ryan Blythe; nieces, nephews; and many family and friends.

She was very happy that she retired early in order to move to Madison to be closer to her children and grandchildren.

Maureen has asked that her life

BIRTH 8 Apr 1938
DEATH 9 Jan 2003 (aged 64)
Madison, Dane, Wisconsin, United States
BURIAL Saint Patrick's Cemetery
Eau Claire, Eau Claire County, Wisconsin, USA
MEMORIAL ID 127813535

