



Margaret Hartsel Birch

November 23, 1933 - March 13, 2014

Margaret Hartsel Birch, 80, of Manassas, Virginia passed away Thursday, March 13, 2014 at the Evergreen Health and Rehab Center.

She was born on November 23, 1933 in Botetourt County, Virginia the daughter of the late John and Ivory (Hutchinson) Hartsel. She was a retired Health and Physical Ed teacher for the Fairfax County Public Schools for 30 years. She was the widow of George Edwin Birch.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Mark E. and Barbara Birch of Front Royal, Virginia; grandchildren, Melissa and Becky Birch; siblings, Eunice Howell, Michael Hartsel, Jerald Hartsel.

The family will receive friends 6:00-8:00 PM Monday, March 17, 2014 at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, Virginia where funeral services will be held 10:00 AM Tuesday, March 18, 2014 with Rev. Dr. Billy G. Tatum officiating. Interment will follow at the National Memorial Park, Alexandria.

In lieu of flowers, the family request that donations be made the Alzheimer's Association, National Capital Area Chapter, 3701 Pender Dr, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22030

Cemetery Details

National Memorial Park

7482 Lee Highway
Falls Church, VA 22042

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home
9609 Center St.
Manassas, VA 20110
(703) 257-6028
pfh@piercefh.com
<https://www.piercefh.com>

Service

MAR 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

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Tribute Wall

JF

“ Miss Margaret will be sorely missed. She was a wonderful, loving and caring person. I will always hold my memories of her close to my heart.

Jon Frederick - March 19, 2014 at 01:45 PM

JM

“ What a sad day it was to hear of our dear friend Margaret passing, She was an exceptional person, like a member of our family. Margaret had the most patience of anyone I know, always so ready to listen to me, not interrupting, just letting me vent, and than taught me to take a look at myself, something I needed to do. She was always there for my family, even when I couldn't control my kids, she would step in and they would listen to her!!! She was my boys Sponsor for Confirmation at church. She was always happy to meet with my out of town family when they would come from Wisconsin to visit. She always made sure to ask me how my family was doing and not just out of habit but out of love and kindness. Margaret will be greatly missed by all of us but I do know that she is in heaven and is very happy. God Bless You Margaret. We love you so much!!!

Jenny McGhee - March 18, 2014 at 06:18 PM

SL

“ We were saddened to hear of our dear neighbor's passing. I have missed Margaret since she move out of her house... one of our most favorite 'meeting places' was the backyard... I will forever miss our chatting across the fence. She was a kind and good woman who always had a smile, and quite often a tasty treat she had baked and would share with us. I remember how proud she was when she talked to me about the cookbook that she had put together to pass on some of her favorite recipes to her Granddaughters. I remember that she shared with me her love for her Son and daughter-in-law. I remember how happy she was when her Son would come each week during the spring/summer months to mow her lawn and help with the yard work... she was grateful for his help but mostly cherished those 'mini-visits' and her time spent with him. Margaret was often in the yard tending her flowers and bird feeders... and in the spring she would have to cut back her peonies as they were so numerous and so heavy they would fall over. She and would always bring a couple of the cut bunches to us so we could enjoy them. She was always happy to mind our kitty when we went out of town and indeed seemed to delight in spending time with her. I know she was active in Alateen and cherished all 'her' kids. Margaret's kind and cheerful heart, her generous and helpful spirit will surely live on in the lives of the many whom she touched in some way with her love. May the Lord wrap his arms around you all and ease your pain... and may you find comfort in you memories of her.
Sue Laney-Wing

Sue Laney-Wing - March 18, 2014 at 11:37 AM

MB

“ Molly Bramble lit a candle in memory of Margaret Hartsel Birch



Molly Bramble - March 17, 2014 at 09:22 AM

MB

What an inspiration to me! Margaret was always there. A rock of the Alanon and Alateen community!. I had the absolute pleasure of working with her years ago at the Big Baptist Church as an pre-teen Alateen leader. She was a perfect example of what LOVE means! xoxo

Molly Bramble - March 17, 2014 at 09:25 AM

KW

“ *Mark, Barbie, Melissa and Becky, We were so sorry to hear about Margaret passing away to heaven. She was a wonderful lady. Love , Roger and Kathy Waters*

Kathy Waters - March 16, 2014 at 07:14 PM

 Kathi Mills

“ *Margaret was the first face of hope and love I remember when I badly needed hope and love. She was there for so many and for that! I am eternally grateful. I know there are many that share my feelings. She was an angel on Earth, so nothing has changed but the location. I love you Margaret, rest in peace your beautiful soul. Kathi Fillmore-Mills*

Kathi Mills - March 16, 2014 at 06:26 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Margaret Hartsel Birch.*



March 16, 2014 at 04:21 PM

VF

“ I missed seeing and hugging Margaret on Saturday's at Bethel church. She was a remarkable lady, very generous and caring. She did a lot to help others and will be truly missed. To her family: Our prayers are with you at this sad time. My condolences to you for your loss. Please know that she will live on in our hearts!



Vincent Fayne - March 16, 2014 at 04:08 PM

MW

“ I knew Margaret for 20 + years. She touched my life in many ways. She helped me get through some bad and sad times. I was very ill at one time and she was an inspiration on a long road of recovery. She helped so many people in so many ways. She was a wonderful person. I'm happy and proud to have known her. Her granddaughters were precious to her and she talked often of her son. I remember when Barbie and her were compiling her cook book which I cherish. I shall miss her greatly.

Marge (Margaret) Wambold - March 16, 2014 at 01:03 PM



“Margaret, you were such an amazing woman who taught me so many things in the wonderful years we shared together. When I heard of the news, I was had this overbearing sadness that I couldn't control. One of the most valuable things that you ever taught me was how to listen. I will always remember one specific meeting when the Alateens were cross-talking as we liked to call it, and you waited until we were all silent, and then began. You told us that if we wanted to see how others feel about the situation at hand, then you have to "take the cotton balls out of your ears and put them into your mouth". It was then that I really started to listen to what people had to say instead of overreacting or acting like whatever they had to say didn't matter. There's SO many memories that I have of us and I'm sure that I could write a book about how amazing of a woman you are. You are my guardian angel, and I know you are in a better place. Please continue to watch over us as you always have, and even though our lives are changing, the memory of you and the person you were will never leave my thoughts. I was blessed when I came to that first meeting, and I'm blessed today to know that you are watching over us up there. Rest in Peace Ms. Margaret, we miss you and love you SO SO much!

Chelsea Payne-Sarhan - March 16, 2014 at 11:34 AM

LS

“Margret, I didn't know you personally, but you were an Alateen sponser and I couldn't help but say something. Thank you for helping all those kids. I don't know what I would do without my sponsors, you did amazing things and I truly appreciate it <3 I'm very sorry for your loss

Lily Sparkle - March 16, 2014 at 10:21 AM



“ Margaret's generosity of spirit through service will always be appreciated. Our children attended her Alateen class for years. To the family: We're sorry for your loss. She will be greatly missed and forever loved.

Sincerely,
Darlene and Tony Pizzola

Darlene Pizzola - March 16, 2014 at 09:56 AM



“ Maggie, there is a picture of you imbedded in my mind. You are walking quickly through the doorways and halls with that big smile on your face and a quick wit. You made me laugh. Thank you for being in my life. Love Beth Woodward

Beth Woodward - March 16, 2014 at 09:53 AM

NB

“ Nancy B. purchased the Touching Tribute Spray for the family of Margaret Hartsel Birch.



Nancy B. - March 15, 2014 at 10:30 AM

DS

“ 1 file added to the album Margaret 3/17/2013



Debbie Smith - March 14, 2014 at 09:13 PM

DS

“ Margaret was a wonderful friend and neighbor for 24 years. To our delight, we were often the recipients of a newly tried recipe. Margaret was always ready to help with dog sitting or helping in any way – even shoveling snow! And always with a cheerful heart! I miss our Sunday night dinner out with the ladies! I thank God that Margaret was a part of our lives. Our heart-felt sympathy to the family - Debbie and Alex Smith

Debbie Smith - March 14, 2014 at 09:06 PM

PA

“ My deepest condolences to the Birch family for your loss. Margaret was a teacher of mine at JMHS. I remember her as kind, always smiling with a great passion for what she did. May she rest in peace.

Pam Anderson

Aiea, Hawaii

"If one lives in the hearts of those she has left behind then one never dies."

Anonymous

Pam Anderson - March 14, 2014 at 07:16 PM


Flytothe
Angels

“ We are so sorry for the loss of a wonderful mother, grandmother and friend. Margaret was an exceptional cook who introduced Michael to chitterlings. She will be dearly missed. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family & friends. Sincerely, Michael Raynor & Dana Brown.

Flytothe Angels - March 14, 2014 at 06:53 PM

BC

“ So sad to hear of Mrs. Birch passing. I have fond memories of playing field hockey at JMHS. She was a great coach and teacher. I will forever love the sport because of her. I guess heaven needed a coach. RIP Mrs. Birch!

Bonnie Lee Cottone

Bonnie Cottone - March 14, 2014 at 03:54 PM

DS

“ My heart is broken. My Aunt Marg was my inspiration in so many facets of my life. Although we were so far away from each other, we maintained our relationship through letters and phone calls. She offered so much comfort to me when my Mother (her sister Corinne) passed away six years ago. I am so sorry for Mark, Barbie, Melissa and Becky. She was a wonderful lady that will be missed by so many people whose lives she touched.

Diane Smith - March 14, 2014 at 02:46 PM

BW

“ Mark and family so sorry for your loss. Your mom was a wonderful lady and will be missed greatly. She was responsible for me getting involved with Alateen over 23 years ago and we went to many conferences together over the years. I will miss her.

Brian Wambold - March 14, 2014 at 02:30 PM

BC

“ I have many memories of events in the P.E./athletic department at JMHS. Maggie and my husband, Norman Chaudet, worked side by side for years. She was highly respected by Norm, the other teachers and students.

My sympathy goes out to her family.

Barbara Chaudet

Barbara Chaudet - March 14, 2014 at 01:55 PM

SJ

Dear Birch Family -- Although I did not know "Miss Margaret" very well, I was always so happy to see her smiling face, bustling around on Saturdays, getting ready for the A-I-a-Teen meetings. I know she put her heart and soul into them. She always had a kind word to say, even though she didn't really know me, as well as that quick beaming smile, and when I asked if I could help her carry anything, it was always a cheery "No thanks, but thanks!" Rest well, Miss Margaret -- the angels have welcomed another one. Condolences on your loss.

Sara Jens

Sara Jens - March 17, 2014 at 03:41 PM