

Marlene L. Welsh, 93, of Miller, passed away peacefully on Monday, May 4, 2026, at the Good Samaritan Society in Miller.

Marlene was born on August 21, 1932, in Baltimore, Maryland, to Fredrick and Hazel (Drebing) Tausendschoen. She attended school in Baltimore and carried with her throughout life a sharp wit, a creative spirit, and a deep love for family.

In 1958, Marlene married James Welsh. Together they began their life in Pennsauken, Connecticut, before moving to Mantua, New Jersey, when James accepted a job in Philadelphia. While living in New Jersey, they welcomed their children: daughters Deborah and Michelle, and sons Bryan and Keith. In 1965, the family moved to Norcross, Georgia, for several years before settling in the Chicago area in 1968.

Marlene devoted herself wholeheartedly to her children and family. She became involved in every school and parent activity imaginable — serving as the “picture lady”, the “hot dog lady”, Camp Fire Girls leader, and a constant supporter of her children’s interests and activities. She never missed a gymnastics meet, wrestling match, baseball game, or cheerleading performance. She could often be found outside playing baseball in the street with her sons and the neighborhood children. If there was something she could do for her children, she did it with love and enthusiasm.

In 1993, Marlene and Jim moved to Miller, South Dakota, wanting to spend more time with their grandchildren after enjoying her early years of grandmotherhood in the Chicago area. Her family was always the center of her world.

Throughout her life, Marlene worked many different jobs, but her favorite was being a school bus driver. She loved sharing stories and memories from her many school bus adventures. Though she did not have extensive formal schooling, Marlene possessed a remarkable gift for poetry and a lifelong love of musicals, and her favorite, Barbara Streisand.

Marlene is survived by her daughters, Deborah and Michelle (John) Carr; her sons, Bryan and Keith; her grandsons: Josh, Christopher, Cameron, and Taylor; and eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, James Welsh, two siblings, and her granddaughter, Nicolette.

The family would also like to extend a special thank you to the nurses and CNAs at Good Samaritan Society for the compassionate care they gave Marlene.

*Luceluzereck*  
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*In Memory Of*  
*Marlene Welsh*  
August 21, 1932 - May 4, 2026



## *Atop A Lonely Hill*

*Atop a lonely hill they stand as geese go winging by.  
Alone like three old sisters, holding secrets deep inside.  
So old, so worn, so tattered, almost swaying in the breeze.  
Lifeless yet still standing through winter's deadly freeze.  
What secrets do they hold inside, what happiness, what tears.  
Did they sit and stare through misty eyes as winds  
destroyed their fields?  
Did death come by early?  
Did poverty prevail?*

*Where did all the children go, their swings no longer there.  
The bell that once rang lunchtime, lay rusting on the lawn.  
For no one's there to ring it, the family all have gone.  
A windmill tall still standing a creaking in the wind.  
For it has not yet toppled as the family once within.  
The barn is leaning leeward, rafters squeaking loud inside,  
It too has not yet toppled where a family did reside.  
I wonder as I stand here, staring at the hill.  
Will the sisters go or will they stay atop a lonely hill?*

*— Marlene Welsh*

