



Marilyn Francis Miller Bagford

March 13, 1928 - December 4, 2021

Marilyn Francis (Miller) Bagford was born in Buena Vista, Ohio, March 13, 1928. Died in Nashville, Tennessee December 4, 2021. Proceeded in death by parents, Belva and Raymond Miller; Husband, Lawrence Bagford.

Survived by children, Daughter, Elaine Hensley (Brian Hensley), Son, Jon Michael Bagford (Mary Elaine Kurtz), Son, Robin Bagford (Debbie Bagford).

Grandchildren: Tyler Hensley, Stacey Anderegg, Jennifer Bagford, Amanda O'Reilly, Michael Bagford, Annie Bagford-Schechter, David Bagford

Great-Grand Children: Jasmine Anderegg, Josie Anderegg, Audrey Star, Raena Star, Pierce O'Reilly, Vivienne O'Reilly, Gavin Bagford, Gracie Bagford-Schechter, Gunner Bagford-Schechter, Amberlin Kees, Autumn Bagford.

Brother, R.C Miller (Shirley Miller) and family. Loving nieces and nephews and dear friends.

Marilyn Bagford was a gem. Loved by all who knew her. She delighted in the natural world, especially feeding her birds and watching the deer that strolled and skipped through her yard often. "What's your weather?" was her favorite question. She always anticipated the beauty of a new day.

She enjoyed serving and helping others and was always looking for volunteer

opportunities. Her love of nature eventually led her to become a volunteer at the Shelby Bottoms Nature Center in Nashville for the last several years. Here she shared her knowledge and experience with staff and visitors alike. Time spent here was one of her greatest pleasures.

Marilyn delighted in being a teacher, and taught first and third grades for twenty six years in her native Ohio. Her classroom was a magical place. Beyond the basic ABC's one could find bits of nature in homemade terrariums, bird nests, rocks, feathers and other natural curiosities

"Mrs Bagford" was adored by her young students and enjoyed everything about teaching. Marilyn continued to volunteer as a reading tutor for kindergartners and first graders well into her nineties. Her service to others also included mission trips to Costa Rica and many hours spent at Mountain Top Youth Ministries in south eastern Tennessee through the United Methodist Church. Marilyn enjoyed the tasks and the friends and fellowship she found there.

An accomplished quilt maker, with a true pioneer spirit Marilyn designed and hand sewed quilts and gifted them to family and friends making more than a hundred quilts during her long lifetime.

Her creativity was also apparent in the kitchen. Known for her delicious pies, she once earned a First Place Blue Ribbon at the Ohio State Fair. Marilyn's kitchen was always a gathering place for friends.

She called it "The Bayberry Inn" and dreamed of opening a bed and breakfast "someday". Her dream came true when she bought a Victorian farmhouse in rural Peebles, Ohio, hosting guests with love and pie... for the next twelve years.

Marilyn's travels and adventures took her far and wide with activities as diverse as her skills and talents. Her love for early American traditions gave her an opportunity to portray a pioneer woman making apple butter in an open kettle at an historic farm in Pennsylvania. She taught outdoor skills and loved hiking and camping with Girl Scouts in Ohio and boys at Camp Indian Waters in Wisconsin.

Marilyn enjoyed all types of music from Classical to Bluegrass and learned to play her dulcimer, even attending some workshops around the Midwest.

Having family and friends from Maine to Colorado she enjoyed staying connected with their joys and challenges through the years. Her adventures also took her to Germany, Switzerland and Denmark where she visited her former exchange students and topped off one trip with a special highlight of a ride in a hot air balloon with a champagne toast.

Marilyn's Independent spirit, wide smile and loving, generous nature was adored and appreciated by neighbors, friends and family. Her life was full of love, generosity and joy.

A celebration of her life will take place in the spring when the flowers bloom and the birds begin to sing.

Donations in her memory may be sent to:

Shelby Bottoms Nature Center

1900 Davidson Street

Nashville, TN 37206

Tribute Wall



“ *Marilyn Francis Miller Bagford*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *Marilyn and I would meet regularly for lunch. Enjoyed going to Moyers and sitting outside. She told me about learning to play the dulcimer one summer. She was always up for an adventure. Thoughts and prayers for the family.*

Chris Hughes-Cassidy - December 10, 2021 at 09:44 PM



We visited them in PA when they lived there and used to go to the Bayberry Inn in Peebles. Marilyn always made you feel welcome. She was so talented in making beautiful quilts for her family and I told her not to include her last name when she gave them and they might think I made them., She would just laugh. Of course they all knew I was not that talented. She was a special lady and the last time I saw her she had come to celebrate RC's 90th birthday. They talked by phone every Saturday. What a special lady and sister. Love to all the family.

Marilyn Ayres - December 13, 2021 at 08:17 PM