



Mrs. Margaret Dahlhauser

December 16, 1929 - November 18, 2020

Dr. Margaret Dahlhauser, age 90, passed away on November 18, 2020. She was a resident of The Hearth in Hendersonville, TN.

Visitation with social distancing and masks will be held at Spring Hill Funeral Home in Madison on Friday, November 27, from 3-7 p.m. Visitation will also be held at St. Joseph Church in Madison on Saturday, November 28, at 10 a.m. followed by a funeral mass at 11 a.m. A private graveside service for immediate family will follow at Spring Hill Cemetery.

Margaret Mary Farrell Dahlhauser was born in Elkader, Iowa, on December 16, 1929, to Francis John "Frank" and Estelle Malary Farrell. The sixth of 10 children, she had a twin sister, Agnes. Arthur Simon Dahlhauser was born in Whittamore, Iowa, on October 28, 1927, the twelfth of the 13 children of Peter J. and Josephine Elbert Dahlhauser. Art turned 18 in October of 1945, after World War II ended, but he enlisted in the US Army and served in Korea, reaching the rank of Staff Sergeant. Intending to become a priest, Art attended Loras College in Dubuque, Iowa, on the GI Bill. There he met Margaret, who was planning a religious vocation herself, and fate intervened. The two married in West Bend, Iowa, on August 18, 1951. They have been inseparable and celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary in 2020.

Art graduated from Indiana University with his MBA, became a CPA, and began working as an accountant with General Electric in Bloomington, Indiana, then transferred with the family to Scotia, New York. Margaret worked hard to raise 10 children and managed to juggle child care with household chores, education, and her children's various sports. When the youngest son, Paul, was 2 years old, the family of 12 was transferred to Scottsdale, Arizona. In 1971 they were transferred again to the General Electric facility in Hendersonville, where they put down roots.

The oldest son, Doug, enrolled at Vanderbilt University, while the youngest, Paul, started elementary school. Margaret enrolled in Vanderbilt's nursing program herself. In 1974,

Margaret and Doug both graduated from Vanderbilt together, and she began her nursing and teaching career. She earned a Master's degree in nursing from Texas Woman's University and began teaching nursing at Tennessee State University and later at Vol State Community College, developing a host of grateful students who benefitted from her no-nonsense NCLEX prep sessions with a 100% passing rate. She was a published author with her NCLEX/CAT-RN Core Review Study Guide. She was a tough but fair teacher who demanded the best of her students. Several years ago, the only thing discovered in her fire-proof safe were letters from her former students. These were the true treasures in her life, not money, jewelry or a property deed.

Along with her daughter Deborah, Margaret participated in medical missions to Haiti beginning in 2003 and developed affectionate relationships with the people there, hosting Haitian patients in her home when they came to the United States for serious medical treatment.

In the 1980s, Margaret began work on her doctorate in higher education administration from Texas Woman's University. Since Art and a few of her youngest children were still at home, she had to plan carefully, cooking ahead and freezing plenty of meals, in order to spend three consecutive summers in Texas away from her family until she completed her dissertation. She was always proud to be called "Dr. Dahlhauser." She instilled in all her children and grandchildren the importance of a good education, and most earned advanced and professional degrees.

Art retired from General Electric in 1983 and worked for several years as an auditor for the Tennessee Department of Agriculture before he retired again in the early 1990s.

The Dahlhausers bought a condo share in Gulf Shores Plantation in 1996 and formed a partnership with their children so that now four generations of Dahlhausers have continued to enjoy special vacations and family time there.

Upon retirement, the Dahlhausers traveled to visit Ireland and Austria. In the 1990s, they traveled to Medjugorje in Bosnia to visit the shrine there and the visionaries who claimed to have seen the apparition of the Virgin Mary. This was a major inspiration in their lives. Margaret in particular also was inspired by Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, who became a saint in 2002.

Margaret's philosophy in life was to obey the commandment to "Be fruitful and multiply," and for several years she and Art kept a hobby farm near White House, Tennessee, raising beef cattle, pigs, goats, horses, and peacocks and keeping a large garden. They

bred Chow dogs as well. Until they sold the farm in 1986, Art's favorite pastime was to ride up to the farm and "count the cows" while cracking open a "brewski." The Dahlhauser children frequently brought home friends. Margaret's motto was always "What's one more?" when asked if a friend could come to supper or stay the night. They never hesitated to open their home to anyone in need. As a result, their house was always overflowing at holidays with 50 people or more. They were happiest when celebrating the many graduations, marriages, new babies, and christenings in the family.

Art and Margaret were lifetime, long-suffering, die-hard Cubs fans, and the entire family rejoiced when then 89-year-old Art was finally able to witness his Cubbies win the World Series in 2016.

Margaret was preceded in death by three sons, Doug, Kevin, and Eric; by a beloved adopted daughter, Lisa Ratte; and by their daughter-in-law Rhonda Meservy Dahlhauser. Her survivors include her husband, Art Dahlhauser, her sister Estelle, and her children, Greg (Terri), Deborah (James Williams), Mary, Stephen, Bryan, Tom, and Paul (Glenda); and her daughters-in-law Julie and Nancy. Grandchildren are Hart (Hillary), Hilarie Samei (Borhan), John (Debora), Justin, Michelle, Naomi Simmons, Nathan Jones (Ali), Jeremy Ratte (Angela), Saranna Cherry (Richie), Taylor Britt (Jimbo), Matthew, Samuel, Joel, Arin (Stephen Day), Jordan, Jennifer Knoll Salley, Andy, Lauren Heisler (Benjamin), Christopher, Ryan, and Thomas.

She also has 18 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to these causes she held dear to her heart:

Camp Marymount:

<https://www.paybill.com/campmarymount/donation/>

St. Joseph Church Haiti Mission Fund:

<https://saintjosephchurchnashville.org/social-action>

Alive Hospice:

<https://www.alivehospice.org/donatenow>

Cemetery Details

Historic Spring Hill Cemetery

5110 Gallatin Road
Nashville, TN 37216

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 27. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Spring Hill Funeral Home
5110 Gallatin Pike S
Nashville, TN 37216

Visitation

NOV 28. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Saint Joseph Catholic Church and School
1225 Gallatin Pike South
Madison, TN 37115

Celebration Of Life Funeral Ceremony

NOV 28. 11:00 AM (CT)

Saint Joseph Catholic Church and School
1225 Gallatin Pike South
Madison, TN 37115

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Margaret Dahlhauser*

August 24 at 02:51 AM

SW

“ *She was such a remarkable woman. Her nursing career, although started late, influenced so many of her students and her NCLEX text was so valuable for many in the extended world of nursing colleagues. I was proud to be a part of her extended family (by marriage) and also a nursing colleague of hers. This obituary is so beautifully written and so full of details. It is a fitting tribute to her.*

Sue Waechter - November 29, 2020 at 01:00 PM



“ *Condolences to family. She was an excellent instructor and I appreciate the impact she had on my nursing career.*

Brenda Humphrey RN TSU nursing class of 1982

B.j. Humphrey - November 26, 2020 at 01:05 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Margaret Dahlhauser.*



November 25, 2020 at 01:24 PM

NL

“ *Jim and I send our love and prayers to all the Dahlhauser family. Our years at Father Ryan allowed us to know many of the children and grandchildren.*

nancy and Jim Langdon - November 25, 2020 at 11:12 AM

PD

“ 17 files added to the album Grandma D.



Paul Dahlhauser - November 24, 2020 at 04:01 PM

PD

“ 1 file added to the album Grandma D.



Paul Dahlhauser - November 24, 2020 at 01:32 PM

TH

“ *She always pushed me to do better. If she walked around and saw that I answered something incorrectly on a test, "she would smack me on the head and say "what are you thinking?" "Get your mind going". She saw everyones potential and always appreciated an inquisitive mind. She was business but would celebrate your successes with you. I have never known anyone else like her. She taught me to question everything and made me a better Nurse. I've missed her. I am truly sorry for your loss. Theresa Holmes RN*

Theresa Holmes - November 24, 2020 at 06:33 AM

TT

“ *The Difference Card Team purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mrs. Margaret Dahlhauser.*



The Difference Card Team - November 23, 2020 at 08:29 PM