



Melson M. Molzow

MAY 8, 1917 - JAN 24, 2011



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Melsom M. Molzow

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Melsom (Mel) Molzow died Monday, January 24th in Fort Myers, Florida. Born in Aniwa, Wisconsin on May 8, 1917, Mel grew up in Birnamwood, WI where she graduated high school as her class valedictorian. She moved to Neenah, WI in 1940 where she met, fell in love with and married R.D. (Pat) Molzow, a local attorney. Mel lived in Neenah for 54 years when she moved to Florida to be with her daughter. Mel was actively involved in her community, helping to organize numerous charitable and community services such as the annual Christmas Giving program. As a Red Cross volunteer she helped establish the local blood bank. Through her activities with Kings Daughters and Sons, she was instrumental in establishing two group homes - one for teenage girls and one for teenage boys. United Way, Visiting Nurses Association, Girl Scouts, St Paul's Lutheran Church Sunday school, Theda Clark Regional Medical Center adult and youth volunteer programs all benefited from her involvement. In addition to these activities she worked tirelessly for the Republican Party and candidates. Mel's fifteen minutes of fame came in 1954 when her photo was in LIFE magazine along with an article about how she sunbathed in Wisconsin winters by enclosing the sides of an upper deck and covering large boards with aluminum foil which could be adjusted to reflect the sun onto a cot laid along side it. That deck was a popular place where the neighborhood high school girls came to get tans before the prom! When Mel needed to relax and recharge she turned to her flower garden where she could be found digging happily in the dirt planting and transplanting, trimming and pruning. It was in her garden that she communed both with nature and with God. She is survived by her daughter, Patricia (Tricia) Molzow, Cape Coral, FL; her son, Thomas D. Molzow and his wife, Gilda, Dataw Island, SC; one grandson Jeffrey T. Molzow and his wife, Sarah and two great grandsons, Reid P. Molzow and Thomas P. Molzow, Lubbock TX; and two sisters, Elaine Miller, NY and Orma Harbeck, Green Bay, WI; and Mary



Obituary

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McGillicuddy, Cape Coral, FL who has been like a daughter. She is predeceased by her husband and two sisters, Verona Sassman and Betty Jane Herman. A loving wife and mother, loyal friend and caring neighbor her light will continue to shine through those lives she has touched. The family is grateful to Dr Doug Henricks and his staff for helping her remain independent for as long as possible, to Calusa Harbour for the loving care she received from the staff in Assisted Living and to Hope Hospice for the gentle, compassionate comfort care which eased her final days. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, February 12, 2011 at the Fort Myers Memorial Gardens Funeral Home. The family will receive friends beginning at 11:00 am. The service is scheduled to begin at noon.



Tribute Wall

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SM

Sue Minnick posted:

Dear Tricia; I moved back to Florida this summer and thought of Mel often, knowing she was in Fort Meyers. I am still an Obit-addict and limit myself to looking at the Post Crescent once a week. I just sat in silence and let the flood of memories come as I stared at your mom's name. She referred to me as the den mother at Island Shores, although she was the one who mentored me. I fondly remember her teaching me the finer points of Neenah, and I always consulted her regarding social graces. We shared many jokes and laughed regularly. I loved her stories and can almost hear her telling them. Every year at Christmas my heart warms when I unpack the little felted Indian ornament with the twins in her papoose. The Indian father has gray hair and she thought that was so appropriate. Thank you for sharing your mom with me for all those years at Island Shores. I am blessed to have known her. Love, Sue

February 5 at 9:28 AM

RB

Richard W. Breaker posted:

Tricia: I have very fond memories of your mother from our days at Neenah High School in the early 1960's, and again when she lived at Island Shores in Neenah. Such a lovely and gracious woman she was. Am sure you will miss her dearly. Lois and I spent February, 2009 and 2010 in Fort Myers. Too bad we are not returning in 2011. You and your family have our deepest sympathies. Would love to hear from you when you have time. Richard & Lois Breaker, Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

February 4 at 4:48 PM

MM

Melsom Molzow posted:

Dear Tricia: You had a wonderful mother, and she was a wonderful friend. It was a happy thought that she was in Florida and we could stay in touch, which we did occasionally. We shall miss her. Thank you for the Christmas letter. The obituary was also very well done, and did justice to her active and productive life. We are sharing in your sadness and send our love and sympathy to you and your brother and Gilda. Sincerely, Raymond and Betty Smith

February 4 at 4:29 PM



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GB

Gene Below Bland posted:

Hello Tom and Tricia, I knew your mother well when I was at NHS. She invited me and several other seniors, all in Tom's class of '56, to sunbathe on that foil-lined sunporch at your home on Congress Place (Blvd?), for several weeks before our Senior Prom. As Class President Warren (Pete) Miedke's date, I was the Prom Queen that year and Mel wanted to be sure I looked healthy and at my best! I recall her standing along the sidelines with other parents during the Grand March, urging me to smile as Pete and I led the way 'round and 'round the new field house. Ours was the first prom held there, as was our commencement the next month – it being a rainy day, I guess. Mel was a great friend and supporter of all of us young people. She had the best, widest smile!

February 3 at 12:07 PM

PM

Pete & Caroline Millar posted:

Dear Trisha, We were truly saddened to hear from Sue about your mother's passing. She was such a dear neighbor to Pete's folks when she lived in Neenah. She was a light of sunshine to all.

February 1 at 3:06 PM

AM

Ann Martin posted:

Sorry to hear of your mother passing. My prayers are with you and your family.

February 1 at 10:33 AM

DD

Doug Dixon posted:

Hello Tricia and Tom, I appreciate being made aware of your mom's passing. Wow, she was a lady larger than life, and I've always been honored to have been her friend, and your dad's! For the past many decades I have been (and always will be) grateful for the close and cherished friendship your parents had with my parents. That was one of life's rocks. My dad loved to spend quality time with Pat in watching sports together. When Pat passed away, and then my mom passed away, there was such comfort and mutual support given to those remaining. Then, especially after my mom passed, Mel was there every day to help Dad along and to give unwavering and solid friendship. Everyone had to love Mel. Such an outgoing and fun personality. Such a sincere friend. I'm really filled with gratitude for having known her as I did. So now our four parents are all together once again. That's comforting. Lots of love to you both. Doug Dixon

February 1 at 9:47 AM



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AH

Ada Hall posted:

Dear Family, I knew Mel when she lived at Island Shores! She & my mother, Ada Hall (too), were good friends. I was very sorry to hear of her passing & send my condolences. She was a very special women! Ada

January 31 at 1:53 PM

SE

Senator Michael G. Ellis posted:

Tricia, My deepest sympathy goes out to you in the loss of yourmother, Mel. She was a wonderful person and a great friend. I have many fond memmories that I will cherish. Your friend, Senator Michael G. Ellis

January 31 at 12:09 PM

RR

Rev. Martin Ruge posted:

Hi Tricia, We read your mom's obituary in this morning's Appleton Post Crescent. Mel lived right behind us here in Neenah, and I had the funeral for your dad. They were such terrific people. We were especially close to your mom and enjoyed doing things with her. She was always so pleasant and we enjoyed spending time with her. She lived a long and full life and now she is home safe. We're glad she could be near you in Florida the last years of her life. Blessings and love, Lola and Martin Ruge

January 31 at 10:55 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Melsom by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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