



## Alice Marie Krebs

September 16, 1934 - April 19, 2020

Alice M. Krebs, a longtime community leader and volunteer in Wauwatosa, Wis., died April 19 in Naples, Fla., at age 85.

Krebs had a distinguished career of community service, most notably as director of volunteers at Froedtert Hospital in Wauwatosa and as the first female president of the city's Rotary Club.

But her list of community volunteer programs is much longer; in fact, when she was named Wauwatosa Distinguished Citizen for 1999, she was nominated by four organizations in which she had held leadership positions: the Neighborhood Association Council, the Rotary Club, the Wauwatosa Historical Society and the Wauwatosa Women's Club.

The award capped a lifetime of service, recognizing her energy and unselfish civic-mindedness that had made Wauwatosa a better place to live and work, and helped her recruit, train and inspire hundreds of others.

She was born Alice Kearby on Sept. 16, 1934 in Milwaukee, Wis., to Harry and Ernestine (Blatz) Kearby. Alice was raised in Milwaukee and LaPorte, Ind., and was a 1953 graduate of Washington High School in Milwaukee, where she was the class salutatorian and a member of the National Honor Society and Quill and Scroll scholastic journalism honor society.

Krebs majored in journalism at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and graduated with a bachelor of science degree in 1957. She was a member of Theta Sigma Phi, Alpha Gamma Delta, the Mortar Board honorary society, and she was voted outstanding student by the UW Alumni Association.

She met Martin J. Krebs of West Allis, Wis., at the University of Wisconsin, and they married in May 1958. They moved to the Milwaukee area, and he became president and third-generation owner of Sells Printing Co. They had three children: Laura, David and Katherine, and both Marty and Alice participated in and supported their children's youth and school activities.

Marty Krebs is also an accomplished jazz trumpet player, and he sang in an award-winning barbershop quartet, and Alice Krebs happily attended many of his performances during their 61-year marriage.

Alice Krebs' career included stints as a reporter at the Madison, Wis., Capital Times; public relations director for the UW Memorial Union; public relations director for Girl Scouts of Milwaukee, specialist at the UW-Milwaukee Office of Continuing Education, and owner-manager of The Gallery, a seasonal bookstore and art gallery in Ellison Bay, Wis.

She was named director of volunteers at Froedtert in 1979, where she formed the Froedtert Auxiliary organization, leading more than 200 volunteers and managing the hospital's Gift Shop. She retired after 13 years in 1992, citing a desire to play a greater part in the lives of her five grandchildren.

Krebs had decades of volunteer experience, with organizations too numerous to mention. A partial list includes the League of Women Voters, the YWCA, the Wauwatosa Neighborhood Association Council, Tosa Tomorrow and the Community Character Committee. She was one of the driving forces behind

the Wauwatosa Historical Society when it opened the Nineteenth Century Schoolhouse in May 1995, which is now a popular field trip site.

At First Congregational Church in Wauwatosa, Krebs served as the chairperson for the Board of Benevolences, become involved with Mayfair Interfaith and served as the Driver Coordinator for the Mobile Meals Ministry from 1992 - 1998.

Krebs was always reluctant to accept recognition for herself, but quick to support any organization that needed help. Even after Alice and Marty retired, she volunteered with organizations in Door County, Wis., including the board of directors of the Midsummer's Music Festival.

When she was named Wauwatosa's Distinguished Citizen, a community leader noted: "If there is anyone who is a personification of civic pride and duty, it's Alice Krebs."

Another wrote: "Alice Krebs is a rare and remarkable individual who has made a positive difference to Wauwatosa, with no thought of glory for herself. From the youth to the elderly, from preservation to innovation, and from basic needs to enrichment programs, Alice's volunteer activities have directly touched all segments of Wauwatosa's population."

She is survived by her husband Martin; her sister, Margaret Iverson; daughter Laura (Don) Loepp; son David (Elizabeth); daughter Katherine; sister-in-law Rachel Paull; grandchildren Ruth Anne (Jonathan Maruri), Rachel, Emily (Brian Rietveld), Matthew and Michael.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, funeral services will be private and the family is planning a memorial service later this year.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Arbor Pointe Foundation, 1000 Arbor Lake Dr., Naples, FL 34110-8087; or the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, 1101 North Market Street, Suite 100, Milwaukee, WI 53202.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

# Cemetery Details

## **Forest Home Cemetery**

2405 West Forest Home Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53215

# Tribute Wall



“ *Alice Marie Krebs*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *We're just two more of those Milwaukee Avenue neighbors who remember Alice and Marty so well. Alice was the center of the excitement for that July 4th Parade down North Ave. We'll never forget the great brunch Alice and Marty provided to build neighborhood spirit in anticipation of another school year at Lincoln Grade School & Those East. Living on Milwaukee Ave. was a joy and Alice was a big part of that spirit for all of us. All were welcome....Alice's spirit was contagious and wonderful.*

*Marty, we send our love, blessings, and deepest sympathy to you and your family as you move through this difficult time.*

*Hugh and Katie McManus*

**Katie & Hugh McManus** - November 19, 2020 at 02:55 PM



“ *My sympathy to you Marty and thank you for sending me Alice's obituary. I thought Marion Petersen was active in local civic affairs but the volume of Alice's volunteer work was truly amazing - what a super person, she and Marion made quite a pair.*

*Gordon Petersen*

*June 16, 2020*

**Gordon M Petersen** - June 16, 2020 at 08:18 PM

NG

“*“Gramma Alice”, as I lovingly joked with her, was not only a longtime Client, but friend, confidant and Woman I truly respected, loved, and admired. She brought me wisdom and strength in my deepest, darkest time of Grief and had no one else living to seek “true love and advice from “. Alice Krebs, I am soo GRATEFUL to have had You in My life even for a short period of time. My heart and prayers go out to Marty and ALL your family and friends. You will ALWAYS be in my heart, thoughts and prayers... We HAD an Angel on Earth...NOW Heaven has Her back home again..(BUT, I KNOW She'll be watching over her Loved Ones!! And maybe checking in on us all..)*❤️❤️❤️🕊️🕊️🕊️🙏🙏🙏

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**Nancy Grillo** - May 30, 2020 at 10:47 AM

CM

“*Alice and Marty lived next door to my parents in Milwaukee. I always referred to her as our “good neighbor” and she was. Not only was she talented in so many ways as well as being active in the community, but she was also fun to be around. I had many good talks with her over the years and she was very helpful to me and my son when we lived there. I will always associate her and my mom with the Milwaukee Avenue parades. They made these family events very special. To Marty, Laura, David, Kathy, and all the family I send my deepest sympathies. Alice was my “good neighbor”. Marty you were too! I think I can honestly say about her that Alice was a life well-lived. My thoughts are with you all.*

*Candee Morrissey*

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**candice morrissey** - May 10, 2020 at 12:51 PM

BC

“ Dear Marty and family,

*I am just learning of Alice’s passing, and am sending you all my heartfelt sympathy. “Grandma Alice” is how she often signed her notes to me—which I cherished! She was a force of joy and goodwill in this world, and it was always such a pleasure to work with the two of you in your beloved Door County gardens. I can see Alice’s smile and hear her laugh, and always appreciated how you cherished each other and your life in Door County. May the memories and stories of your years together continue to bring comfort to your whole family.*

*Bless Alice’s spirit, and all of you who loved her so well,*

*Beth Coleman  
The Garden Lady, Door County WI*

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**Beth Coleman** - May 04, 2020 at 03:13 PM

RD

“ Marty: We miss you and Alice down here over the years.

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**Robert Dohnal** - May 04, 2020 at 11:03 AM

JL

“ Our deepest sympathy to Marty and family. We have wonderful memories of Alice as our neighbor on Beach Road.. We still hear Marty playing taps at sunset over the waters of Green Bay and have visions of Alice saying " Oh Marty" with a great big grin. A wonderful and gracious woman. A true honor to have known her.

" Under the wide and starry sky Dig the grave and let me lie. Glad did I live and gladly die, And I laid me down with a will. This be the verse you grave for me; "here he lies where he belonged to be, Home is the sailor, home from the sea, And the hunter home from the hill." John and Peg Lowry Door County Wisconsin



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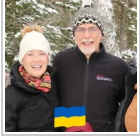
**John & Peg Lowry** - May 01, 2020 at 11:45 PM

RB

“ Marty, Brief but fond memories of Alice.  
Warm condolences, Richard & Sandra Bomberg

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**Richard Bomberg** - April 29, 2020 at 05:11 PM



“ I was truly saddened to read about Alice's passing in the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel. I have thought of her many times over the years, always with deep gratitude and a joy-filled heart. When I was a young mom on Milwaukee Avenue, new to Wauwatosa and our neighborhood, Alice took me under her wing and introduced me to Wauwatosa. She led the way in founding the Historic Heights Neighborhood Association, graciously calling me her co-founder. She equipped me by example and by showing her heart's passion how to become involved in your community - because you loved it and you wanted to see it flourish. I will always remember driving slowly around the neighborhood one summer night, counting houses and watching the raccoons scuttle into the storm sewers. She laughed and shined her flashlight right at them! She made our task fun - that was her spirit! More than 30 years later, Alice's vision and heart live in on so many who cherish this community and continue to invest in it. My sincere sympathies to Marty and the whole family. Thank you for sharing Alice with the rest of us. Peace to her memory. Beth Fredrickson

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**Beth Fredrickson** - April 29, 2020 at 01:15 PM

HK

“ Our heartfelt sympathies go out to Marty, Laura, David, Katherine, their spouses and children. Jim and I were so sad to hear of Alices passing, she was a really wonderful person and that is how I feel even before reading about all her wonderful volunteering accomplishments. I associate Alice and Marty so closely in thought with my own parents who were close neighbors for many years. It feels like an extended part of own my family is now gone. We are keeping your whole family in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time, love to you all.

*Jim & Holly Krause*

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**Holly Krause** - April 27, 2020 at 08:43 PM

PR

“ *Marty and family,  
Kathleen and I wish to express our condolences to you on Alice's passing. Her involvement in the Wauwatosa Community was legendary. From her obituary it's clear that continued in Door County and Naples. My closest contact with her was at Wauwatosa Rotary where she appropriately became our first female President.*

*Marty, we also remember evenings at the Red Mill where you entertained us.*

*Paul Roller*

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**Paul Roller** - April 26, 2020 at 12:34 PM

RP

“ *Marty...  
Diana and I want to express our deepest sympathy to you and your family. Alice was such an effervescent person. To be with her was always a delight. She will be missed! On behalf of our music family, we offer our condolences and will keep you and your family in our prayers.*

*Diana and Robert (Big Bob) Pieske*

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**Robert Pieske** - April 26, 2020 at 10:03 AM

BL

“ We have so many wonderful memories of Alice, from planning the Wauwatosa Village renovation (including the political campaigns necessary for that) and evenings at the Red Mill listening to Marty play Dixieland, to traveling across Northern Spain together. Times spent visiting in Door County were especially memorable. Alice was a joy to be around. She was always ready with a laugh and a smile. She will be missed.

*We send our love and prayers to Marty and the family. May Alice rest in peace.*

*Mary and Bill Little  
Camarillo, CA*

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**Bill and Mary Little** - April 25, 2020 at 03:08 PM

HN

“ To the entire Krebs family , condolences from Harold, Jamie and kids. Alice is in our prayers. All of the memories we shared with Alice on special occasions like the Wauwatosa 4th of July Parade, watching Fireworks with Alice, (an OOO AAAH adventure), and summers in Door County. Reminiscing about Alice , most important to me were the Christmas eve memories. All of the Krebs had a knack for music. These are all a part of memories that put a smile on my face and thoughts of kindness in my soul . She had plenty of laughs and smiles to share with anyone she met. Alice always raise the level of fun at events and helped us understand that the times we share together are special.

*Love you all from Harold Norman Flower Mound TX.*

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**Harold Norman** - April 22, 2020 at 07:49 PM

RR

“ Andy and I are so saddened to learn of Alice's passing. She was a wonderful personality, brightening our get-togethers around the Milwaukee Symphony and in Door County with the Dagoes and Najooms. She'll always be treasured in our memories.

*Roger Ruggeri and Andy Wagoner*

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roger ruggeri - April 22, 2020 at 03:44 PM



“ To Marty and family. I am sooo sorry for your loss of Alice. There are so many wonderful times I have shared with Alice through the years of keeping her beautiful, what a wonderful lady she was and will always be to me. She made everyone smile when she came to the salon and even my house "For the Breakfast club" at the "LaGarage" . She will always have a very special place in my heart. Love you Alice, thank you for being that great friend. I miss you and your smile. Corinne and Jasper.

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David Belling - April 22, 2020 at 08:32 AM

DL

“ Alice brought light into everyone's life. What a special woman! What an incredible role model. My sympathies go out to her dear Marty and her family at this loss. We are all missing Alice and her laugh.

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Denise Lindberg - April 21, 2020 at 01:56 PM