



Marion Ethel Briley Bechdel

April 7, 1947 - November 1, 2014

Marion Bechdel, 67, passed away peacefully on November 1, 2014. She was born in 1947 in Albuquerque and was a graduate of Valley High. Marion traveled the world, served as a government civilian, was a diehard Green Bay fan, and was a devoted member of the First United Methodist Church. Marion is preceded in death by her parents, Alice and Albert Briley. She is survived by her husband of 49 years, Emerald "Bud" Bechdel; three daughters, Mary, Teresa and Pamela; sons-in-law, Randy and Robert; siblings, Richard, James and Elaine; and eight grandchildren. Marion led her life with an exuberant spirit; her unselfish love touched the lives of many. A memorial will be held Friday, November 7, 2014 at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary at First United Methodist Church, 314 Lead Ave. SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to First UMC Grace Meal.

Cemetery Details

Santa Fe National Cemetery

Santa Fe, NM

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 7. 2:00 PM (MT)

First United Methodist Church
314 Lead Ave. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Tribute Wall



“ *French Funerals created a Tribute Video in memory of Marion Ethel Briley Bechdel*



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - November 05, 2014 at 04:41 PM

EK

“ My “seester,” (That’s how we referred to one another. I don’t know why) Marion was probably the most enlightened person I have ever known. She inherited all the genetic maladies from both our parents, and yet, she had miraculous strength and boundless energy for helping others. I know it was this kind of love that transcended her physical limitations. Marion was about joy and laughter; the kind one sees on the faces of souls who are living a divine purpose beyond themselves.

Even when she needed to be hospitalized for one serious reason or another, Marion thought about others. I’d be so worried and she’d answer the phone as if she had just been shopping; all jovial and positive. She would comfort US with her compassion and her wisdom. She would heal US with her laughter.

I’d call her a saint except, a saint is someone who has supposedly lived a pure life devoid of all the mischief of childhood. Yet, what do we really know about the early years of Mother Teresa or Jesus? Somehow, this part of their lives is missing from the history books. Maybe we don’t know about the time when young Jesus set the chicken coop on fire. Perhaps we will never know the story of a teenaged Mother Teresa who “accidentally” tried to kill her bratty little sister. We only know that, like Marion they lived by some unfathomable force of grace and performed wondrous acts of selfless charity.

Her indomitable spirit remains as MY inspiration. Although she lives inside my heart, I will miss “my seester”

Elaine Krieg, Eulogy given at First United Church for Marion Bechdel, Albuquerque, NM, November 7th, 2014.

Elaine Krieg - November 07, 2014 at 08:22 PM

BB

“ I was married for over 49 years to the number one woman in the world. Our marriage had its ups and downs, but with the help of God we worked out way through our problems. As a young family, she endured long separations while I had to go to war in Vietnam. During these separations she carried the brunt of raising young girls all by herself in towns that were not her own. When we rejoined each other, Marion and I depended on each other through world travels raising three beautiful daughters that hit the ground running with successes in their own families, education, and careers. Marion and I are extremely proud of them.

Though she had illnesses of her own, she stood by my side since 1965 and helped me through my PTSD, diabetes, as well as hernia, cancer, and open heart surgeries. Leaning on her strength, I was able to overcome and manage these trials to my health.

She always thought of others first. Marion asked me just before her passing to send her love to her church family. She loved the friendships and fellowship from the church and the way each honored God. Marion also made me promise to continue helping the needy and to make sure I picked up the donuts from Donut Mart for the Grace Meal.

Marion loved all animals, including me. Over 2 weeks ago, we had to put down our sweet Lulu-- our beloved dog. Marion immediately allowed me to get another puppy to ease the pain. I never thought Blanche and April would be helping me through this new type of pain.

I know she is in heaven because; Saint Peter called from the pearly gates and said he had let her through via the TSA pre-check lane. While she is in heaven, Marion will still try to keep me out of trouble. I love and miss Marion to the point where it hurts, but I know all the pain and hurts caused by her illnesses are no longer a limit to her. May she rest in peace—I love you Marion.

Bud Bechdel - November 07, 2014 at 07:56 PM

MB

“*Mom’s smile is the first and last thing I will always remember about her. For me, her smiles came in many shapes and sizes. The pure joy she had in living was always reflected in that impish grin. Exploring new places or learning something new, her smile showed wonder and amazement at the world. Whether it was reading the pleasing words in the poetry she helped her Mother with or holding the newest grandbaby in her arms, the love always shone through. Even when times were tough, the gritted smile of her strength balanced the pain of her personal losses or poor health. The stories of her youth would bring bold laughter and a devilish smile...like there was more to the tales but the secret was hers and her friends. Pride in her daughters brought a peaceful smile, knowing that the three of us would succeed through determined strength and love for family and friends. Mom’s romantic smiles for Dad endured through many ups and downs, forging a core of strength for a military family. Even as death came near and through the pain, her smile still lit up the room as friends and family came to see her. While Mom no longer is bound to this earth, her all smiles remain here in the people she touched. -- I love you Mom, Mary*

Mary Bechdel - November 07, 2014 at 07:55 PM

JW

“*Marion, what a constant shining light you are. Growing up I was drawn to your genuine fun-loving kindness like a moth to a flame. You would always take the Bechdel/Whisler family adventures to another fun and memorable level. You are such a gracious, loving soul and I am..well, we all are so very lucky to have had you touch our lives with your grace.*

Julie Whisler Winfree - November 05, 2014 at 04:27 PM

DW

“ Marion, you and mom were the guardians of the original Brat Pack - Julie, Mary, Debbie, Theresa, Jeff and Pammy. Your love and laughter will live on in all of us as a rich, enduring legacy. There's no one else like you nor will there ever be. Vaya con Dios, Auntie Marion.

Thanks for the memories,
Debbie

Debbie Whisler - November 05, 2014 at 02:49 PM

BJ

“ Marion, knowing you and the Briley family my entire life provides many memories of you: Spending nights together at your house or mine, graduating high school the same year, standing up with you when you married, going places together when you were expecting Mary. Most memorable is how you taught me to be a friend with your loving and kind ways. Your influence in my life made me who I am today. Thank you my dear friend. I will miss you and look forward to meeting again one day. May God bless your family in this time. Love, Barbara James

Barbara James - November 05, 2014 at 02:47 PM

NG

“ In the 62 years that we have been friends, you were always positive, never judgmental, & offered unconditional love. I can't remember you ever gossiping or speaking an unkind word. You were a beautiful person, and your family and friends are forever blessed by your legacy. I love you Marion.

N. Kathleen Griggs - November 05, 2014 at 02:38 PM

TS

“ Mom, you were the light of the world for so many people. Your legacy will live on through the lives you've touched and the daughters you left behind. The joy you instilled in Mary, Pam, and I will continue and be passed onto our children. Love you Mom!

Teresa Salazar - November 05, 2014 at 09:22 AM

JW

“ Marion, our family was truly blessed to have you in our lives and I just wanted to thank you for being such a great friend to my mother!! You will be loved and missed by the entire Whisler family.
Love, Jeff

jeff whisler - November 05, 2014 at 07:47 AM

JW

“ Marion, you will always be my best friend. I love and miss you and cherish the many memories I have of you. You are the best person I will ever know. Thank you for being a part of my life for these past 44 years.

Jean

Jean Whisler - November 05, 2014 at 07:32 AM

DB

“ Lovely lady and I will not forget her smile and kindness.

Donna Brennan - November 04, 2014 at 04:45 PM

MW

“ Marion - your kindness and love was demonstrated every day. Your smile and sense of humor will be greatly missed.
To the family - May the Lord give you comfort during this time of Loss. As Paul stated, "absent from the body, present with the Lord."
Someday, we will see her. Our prayers are with you.
Lots of Love, the Webers, Mike, Kathy and Paul

Michael & Katherine Weber - November 04, 2014 at 09:30 AM



“ Mom - your kind heart and generous love will be missed here on Earth. I will miss our football chats, slamming cabinet doors at 6am, and you asking me if I want eggs and green chile. I love you Mom!!!!

Pamela Bechdel-Wright - November 04, 2014 at 09:18 AM

BF

“ We are so sorry to hear about your loss. May the God of all comfort, continue to be with you and your family during this difficult time. We all look forward to a time, when death will be no more-Rev 21:4. Our prayers are with you.

Boyd Family - November 04, 2014 at 04:23 AM

DG

“ On behalf of the French Family of Companies, we express our deepest condolences.

Dante Gutierrez-Zamora - November 03, 2014 at 12:24 PM