



Norma R. Maudlin

October 25, 1926 - July 24, 2020

Norma R. Maudlin

Norma Ruth Maudlin dedicated her life to family, home and the Royal Oak community. Although her earthly life ended just short of the age of 94, her commitment to helping others and her accomplishments live on in the results of her good works and in her four children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Maudlin died July 24, 2020, at Woodward Hills in Bloomfield Hills, where she was receiving end-of-life medical care.

She was born October 25, 1926, in Toledo, Ohio, to Josephine and Martin Grove. The family moved when she was young to the then-prosperous community of Highland Park, Michigan. As a teenager, she held part-time jobs at stores in nearby downtown Detroit.

She attended Michigan State University, where she met Grant J. Maudlin, of Royal Oak, who was back from service in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II and was attending college on the GI Bill. They were married on December 21, 1946.

The young couple did their part to build the post-war Baby Boom generation by adding four daughters, who all survive their mother: Gayle Maudlin, Suzanne Scott (Tom), Ann Maudlin and Kathy Lee (Joe). Mrs. Maudlin also is survived by a sister, Joan Scheftel. Mr. Maudlin died in August 2004.

Her grandchildren are: Sally Demshur (Paul), Brian Scott (Megan) and Annie Rosa (Dustin); Zach, Jess and Erica Lee. Great grandchildren are: Sydney, Maya, Abigail and Brooke Demshur; Greyson and Grant Scott; Taylor Rosa.

Mrs. and Mr. Maudlin taught by example how to raise a loving, ethical family committed to improving others' lives through education, good work and community service. Mrs. Maudlin was a homemaker in the true sense of the word, creating a beautiful and

nurturing home full of joy, wonderful cooking, beautiful decorating and inspiring books, music and art.

She was an incessant gardener, whose long hours of backyard "farming" were the source of great happiness and her daughters' jokes. Even in her 90s, she spent much of the summer planting new flowers and bushes, oftentimes still working late under floodlights.

Her community was an extension of her home. She spent much of her married life as a volunteer, leading school and civic projects and a wide variety of important campaigns and fundraising drives. She made countless lifelong friends and allies through her volunteer work.

She was deeply involved with Girl Scouts, Royal Oak PTA, school millage campaigns and other school district activities, even long after her own children graduated. She helped establish the Royal Oak Foundation for Public Education, as well as Royal Oak Victims Assistance programs, the Youth Assistance Committee and Royal Oak Families in Action.

Michigan Governor James Blanchard appointed her in 1986 to the state's Advisory Commission on Substance Abuse Services.

In 1988 she received the Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Citizen Award ("Citizen of the Year") in recognition of decades of service, and was named Michigan PTA Member of the Year in 1991. She also was honored with the Michigan Prevention Network Leadership and Excellence Award.

"One of the finest assets the city has ever had," is how one Oakland County official summed up Mrs. Maudlin's years of dedicated and effective service.

She and Grant enjoyed many activities throughout their life together, including travel, sailing, theater, dance club, bridge club, University of Michigan football games, Spring Break on Hilton Head Island and summer vacation in Northwest Michigan. In her later years, she watched enough televised sports to earn the nickname "Sports Center."

And always, her family was paramount.

She advised her children to keep their own children "close," close in love and friendship if not always miles. She practiced what she preached. Even her youngest great-grandchildren on both coasts couldn't wait for the next time they could be together and have fun with "Great Grandma Bun."

Contributions in memory of Norma Maudlin may be made to the Shades of Pink Foundation. Based in Birmingham, the 501(c)3 non-profit organization assists women with breast cancer throughout Southeast Michigan. Information is available and donations may be made at www.shadesofpinkfoundation.org.

A celebration of Norma Maudlin's life will be organized by her daughters and held at a later date. Share your memories at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com.

Comments



“ My condolences to you and your family. You will continue to be in my prayers.

Teresa Brewer-Rollins

Teresa Rollins - 10 hours ago



“ Fond memories of our family trips to Detroit and visits with Grant & Norma....the crazy games Grant came up with to entertainof course Deek & Lisa their two dachshunds. Even managed to find the home when I was in town for a Tiger game or a golf tournament at Oakland Hills long enough to just say Hi. Our deepest sympathy for her family...she was a special lady! God bless ...

John Pattenger - August 04 at 05:17 PM



“ Norma was my mentor. We criss-crossed paths with our involvement in many volunteer groups in the Royal Oak community - mostly related to our public schools and working for the welfare of children, especially in the area of substance abuse/addiction. When I was elected to the Royal Oak Board of Education, I asked Norma why she had never considered running for a School Board position. I remember her response well, "I feel I can make a bigger impact on the outside, than on the inside." But my greatest admiration for her grew from a volatile situation that attracted a great deal of interest in the press in Royal Oak. A small group of influential people wanted to organize a 3-day festival downtown that would necessitate the closing of a main intersection where a beer tent would be set up. The event would be sponsored by Budweiser and the proceeds would go to our nationally award-winning Boys and Girls Club, that just happened to sponsor an AA group for young people. Norma and I were co-presidents of an organization that worked to reduce substance abuse in our community and our group was opposed to this plan. Norma and I had the audacity to stand up to revered community leaders at a City Commission meeting to oppose the plan. We made a lot of people mad at us! When I began to waiver under the pressure, Norma said, "We will keep an even keel and hold our course with our heads held high." We prevailed - the beer tent festival never happened!

I shall miss this great lady! Kathy Howell

Katherine Howell - August 02 at 09:35 PM



“ I’m so blessed to have so many fond memories of Norma. I was lucky enough to be her hair stylist for a couple decades. My fondest memory of her was when I proved myself by not allowing her to get a perm. I stood up to Norma. From that day on I earned her respect. She always had such great depth of knowledge and empathy. She will be dearly missed and loved forever!



Michael Gula - August 01 at 07:52 PM



“ My deepest condolences to the Maudlin family as you lay your dear mother to rest. She was an inspiring woman of great character, humor and service to family and community. I became friends with her later in her life and we became texting buddies through our mutual love of Michigan football and all things sport. I would have a busy day at school and find a text from Norma about Shoelace or Verlander that always made me smile. And not just the topic, but the way she looked at and thought about things was unique and special. I'll never forget her wit and wisdom and feel lucky to have known her.
With sympathy, Mia Gutierrez along with Al and family

Karamia Gutierrez - July 31 at 01:41 PM



“ Norma and I shared being grandmothers to three wonderful young people, Zach, Jessica and Erica Lee. We had many wonderful times together with our families. May God bring blessings and comfort to all her loved ones.

Marilyn Lee - July 31 at 12:13 PM



“ Aunt Norma was always so bubbly and ready for fun. Best time when I was there polishing those cool rocks from the lake and catching all the butterflies etc.





“ Posted for Joan: I will love and cherish my sister forever. Gods speed Norma.



Joan Scheffel - July 29 at 04:00 PM



“ My memories of Norma were that she was always happy and smiling. She also had a great sense of humor. I will cherish them forever.



Robin San Vicente - July 29 at 03:58 PM



“ Big thumbs- lol. My last name is San Vicente

Robin San Vicente - July 29 at 04:02 PM