

# Westbrook

## Featured Resident



### Marjorie Krenkel

Marjorie was the middle child of three children born to Ray and Belva Brannan. She was born on their farm in Clark, SD, by the family physician. Her sister was 21 months older than her. She dreamed of having a brother and had been asking for one. When she was nine, her brother was born. She says in her childish mind her wish had come true. She adored him and spoiled him. She grew up with lots of pets – lambs, goats, dogs, cats and chicken. She had a happy childhood and enjoyed playing outdoors. When she was nine years old, her sister nearly drowned in an icy creek. It was the only tragedy that marred her childhood.

Her sister made a full recovery.

Marjorie enjoyed school especially English and Literature. She attended a country school for her younger years and graduated from Clark High School in Clark, SD. She had always dreamed of being a registered nurse. So after graduation, she took her first train ride to her first big city, Chicago, IL, to attend nursing school at Michael Reese Hospital School of Nursing. She remembers her father taking an insurance policy out on her because of the mob in Chicago. He was so frightened for her safety. She joined the cadet corp. and finished her training in 1946.

She moved to Topeka in 1949 to work at Christ Hospital. In June, her sister-in-law introduced her to Bill Krenkel. He was her dream come true; so handsome, educated, kind and considerate. They started dating and married that same August. Marjorie continued to work until the birth of her first son, James, in July of 1950. They were living in Kansas City, KS, during the big flood of 1951. Bill was so afraid that she and the new baby would be washed away before he could reach them. But when he got home, they were safe and sound. In April 1952, their second son, David, was born. Bill was starting an insurance company at the time. In April 1954, their third son, Daniel, was born. Marjorie stayed home with her boys. In 1958, the family moved to Gladstone, MO, and Marjorie started working at the new North Kansas City Hospital.

In her career as a nurse, Marjorie worked with polio patients, hot packs and iron lungs. She then worked in obstetrics and pediatrics before she started working in industrial nursing. She worked in this field until she retired in 1990.

Marjorie was very involved in her sons' lives. She was a den mother and Boy Scout leader. She helped them all obtain their Eagle Scout ranking. She is very proud of her sons. Her two oldest sons became machinists and Daniel was a heavy equipment operator.

Marjorie has known her share of sadness. Her husband passed away in 1972 due to an infection. This was a difficult time for her. Her son, Daniel, was diagnosed with prostate cancer. It went into his bones and he suffered greatly. Marjorie says it was bad enough losing a child but to watch him suffer was the worst. Daniel passed away January 15, 2006.

Marjorie loved to travel. She had a traveling buddy and they would take spontaneous trips throughout the United States. She saw many beautiful spots in the US, but always dreamed of going to Switzerland and her dream came true. She says it was as beautiful as she'd thought it would be. She also went to the Netherlands and parts of Germany. Marjorie also enjoyed several ocean cruises. Besides traveling, Marjorie loves to read and thoroughly enjoys music and dancing.

Marjorie moved to Westbrook from Lawson, MO, in February. She says this is her last move. The thing she likes best about Westbrook is that it's a lovely place with friendly and helpful people. She has three grandchildren, a great grandchild and another on the way in July.

*My mother loves it here- the rooms are very large and comfortable. All the staff we have come in contact with are very friendly and accommodating. I recommend Westbrook Care Center all the time! ~ Stanley B*

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