

Westbrook

Featured Resident

Margaret Yoakum



Margaret was the oldest of two girls born to Martin and Esther Yauk. She was born in Kingfisher, OK, in January of 1939. Margaret was premature, weighing only two pounds. They were so certain that she wouldn't survive that they didn't feed her for three days. Her mother was a nurse and so when she was released from the hospital, she took Margaret home with her. Margaret was kept under a heat lamp for three months.

Margaret's sister, Carol, was born two and a half years later. When Margaret was four, her father went to Normandy, France, as an Army Chaplain and Margaret, her mother and sister moved to Winfield, KS, to

live with her aunts.

After the war, the family relocated to Seward, NE, where her father pastured St. John's Lutheran Church. Margaret attended parochial school in Seward from second to eighth grade. Growing up she enjoyed being with her friends, swimming and playing with paper dolls. School was hard for her because she was a slow learner due of health related issues. She hated math but liked History and Religion. She says being with the other kids pushed her to work harder to be normal. She played drums in the High School Band and graduated from Seward High School.

Shortly after graduation, her family moved to Mission, KS, and her father took over pasturing Trinity Lutheran Church. Margaret attended a year of Jr. College and then attended Business College for a couple of months.

In 1959, she went to work at Massey Ferguson. She worked in the parts department, putting prices and part numbers on the part orders for the warehouse. Margaret noticed a young man coming in the front door one day and thought he looked like a nice guy. She started visiting with him during coffee breaks. His name was Bob Yoakum and he worked on the opposite side of the building from her. They started talking in March, he asked her out in April. Their first date was on Good Friday and they went to see a movie. He asked her to marry him on Christmas Eve and they married on August 8, 1964.

The couple moved to Kansas City North. Margaret continued to work at Massey Ferguson for another year. In 1966, their first son, Rolland, was born. In 1967, they relocated to Liberty, MO. Their second son, Martin, was born in 1968 and their last son, Kevin, was born in 1972. Margaret stayed at home with her children for a while. Eventually, she did go back to work part time at the grade school cafeteria and then doing some factory work. She was involved in the Lutheran Women's Mission League and helped out with Rolland and Kevin's Cub Scout troops.

Once her sons were grown, she went to work at St. Stephen's Parent's Day Out. She was an aide and loved working with the children. She also did Parent Day Outs with her friend, Kathy, and for Liberty United Methodist. Her love of children and the Parent's Day Out program prove that you can find worth and a new profession later in life.

Margaret and Bob travelled the US and to Germany. She doesn't have a favorite place they visited insisting she loved them all. She enjoyed scrapbooking though she doesn't do it anymore. She likes to read, watch football, do counted cross stitch and just about any craft.

Due to health reasons, Margaret and Bob moved to Westbrook in September of 2015. She says the people are friendly. There are lots of things to do – her favorites are Bingo, Crafts and the various Bible classes.

Margaret's son, Rolland and his wife, Barbara, adopted two sons, Elliott(18) and Mitchell(17) from Russia. Martin has two children – Sean(23) and Margo(12). And their son, Kevin and his wife, Kathy, adopted their daughter, Kara(7), from China. They are truly an international family.

They all really went above and beyond to take of my mother. They provided a safe and helpful environment. ~ Mary S

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