



Evelyn Marie Southwell

August 9, 1933 - December 14, 2021

ADRIAN – Evelyn Marie Southwell, 88, of Canton, MI, died Tuesday evening, December 14, 2021, at the home of her daughter, Luann Rock of Adrian, surrounded by her loving family while under the compassionate care of Hospice of Lenawee.

Born August 9, 1933, she was the only child of Flossie Putnam, who died shortly after her birth. Evelyn was adopted and raised as a young child by Melvin and Mae Putnam. Upon Mae's early passing, Melvin was re-married to Anna McWhorter, she continued to help raise Evelyn into adulthood. In 1984 Evelyn married Vernon Southwell in Gatlinburg, TN. They shared many years of love, laughter, and memories, until he preceded her in death 2004.

Upon completing high school, Evelyn earned her business degree from Cleary College on the campus of Eastern Michigan University. She used her degree for her life's passion, cooking. Evelyn was the owner and operator of "The Campfire" Restaurant in Milan, then went into business with her husband, Vernon to own "The Villager" Restaurant in Clinton. Her love of cooking continued well into retirement. She was proud to organize and cook for events for the over 800 homes at the "Swiss Tennis & Golf Retirement Community" in Winter Haven, FL, where she resided.

In her spare time, Evelyn enjoyed golf and was an avid reader. She was a

member of the Red Hat Society and the Clinton United Methodist Church.

She was a generous, giving soul. Evelyn made sure seniors and shut-ins were fed through volunteering for meals-on-wheels. She also provided coats, gloves, and scarves to needy children at Christmas, by placing a "Giving Tree" in her restaurant "The Villager" in Clinton. Evelyn was a friend to everyone she met. Her love radiated out to touch the hearts of all who knew her.

Evelyn is survived by her children, Suzan Thatcher (Stephen Jones) of Ojai, CA, Luann Rock of Adrian, Theresa Ghrist of Canton, MI, and Guy (Mary) Johnson of Milan; step-son, Vern (Becky) Southwell of Grass Lake; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; and her countless friends scattered between Manitou Beach, Milan, and Winter Haven, FL.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Vernon; son, Fred Thatcher; and sons-in-law, Kenneth Rock and Eugene Ghrist.

In accordance with Evelyn's final wishes, cremation will take place and she will be laid to rest in Marble Park Cemetery in Milan with her parents and beloved husband, Vernon. Arrangements were entrusted to Wagley Funeral Home, Adrian.

The family suggests that memorial contributions to honor Evelyn be made to Hospice of Lenawee. Online condolences and memories may be shared at www.WagleyFuneralHomes.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Evelyn Marie Southwell*

January 28, 2023 at 12:24 PM



“ *Evi, was my sister-in-law beautiful inside & out she will be deeply missed. Rest in Peace. May the Lord comfort the heart/minds of all her Loved ones.*

Jeanette Dorothy Koziol - December 19, 2021 at 09:39 AM



“ *Evie was an icon in our park. Her calm sweet caring ways for others shown brightly. She was an organizer in the kitchen when it came to special events requiring a meal. She walked faithfully wearing one of her trendy caps. I was blessed to have known Evie. May God bless you with peace and comfort at this time of loss. Virginia and Don Dodds*

Virginia Dodds - December 18, 2021 at 07:01 PM



“ *My condolences to Evie's family and friends. It was a pleasure working for her in my first real job at the Villager restaurant as a dishwasher and assistant cook. Good memories and a great opportunity to get started in the working world.*
John Beardmore

John Beardmore - December 17, 2021 at 06:38 AM

JH

“ *Luann*

So sorry for the loss of your mother while working for her she tough me so many things. She always treat and my brother Jeff and Jason Lundgren like family will miss her deeply Rest In Peace Boss.

Jamie Hall

jamie hall - December 16, 2021 at 05:06 PM

LS

“ *Richard and I are deeply saddened by your loss. Evie was a fun lady. She loved Richard's hugs, and I enjoyed working with her in the kitchen on one of our committees. She will be missed, until we meet again.*

Richard and Linda Saunders

Linda Saunders - December 16, 2021 at 05:04 PM

KM

“ *Kristina (Krissy) Matelski lit a candle in memory of Evelyn Marie Southwell*



Kristina (Krissy) Matelski - December 16, 2021 at 01:36 PM

KM

“ She was my first boss. Tough bird she was, very fair, hard working and did not take crap from anyone. I now am a boss lady my self and I run my place like she ran the Villager Family Restaurant in Clinton. I was a dish washer first, then she moved me to the front of the house to wait tables. I opened and closed for them, loved her and Vernon like second parents. She was the best boss I ever had. I remember her yelling **who's red car is that parked where our delivery needs to park, get to moved now!** that was my very first day with her. I'm proud to say she made me the boss lady I am today. Love ya Evie

Kristina (Krissy) Matelski - December 16, 2021 at 01:35 PM

KC

“ Such wonderful and fun memories of Evie! I have thought of her so many times over the past years- all the fun we shared in our businesses in Clinton. She was a special person with a heart of gold! I am sure she will be missed by family and so many friends. Rest in peace my friend.

Karen Campbell - December 16, 2021 at 11:04 AM

JJ

“ Luann - I am deeply sorry for the loss of your beautiful Mom. I will hold you tight in my thoughts and prayers.

Jill Johnson - December 16, 2021 at 09:44 AM



“ Heaven received a Beautiful soul. Evie was a special person to so many. May you find comfort in knowing she is at peace.



Connie Dykes - December 16, 2021 at 09:29 AM

MR

“ So sorry for your loss. Emie and I had some times together that I will always remember

Marge Rock - December 16, 2021 at 07:44 AM

JO

“ So very sad to hear of Evelyn’s passing. My wife Debbie and I were the property managers of Swiss golf and tennis where we got to know Evelyn. What a wonderful person she was and involved in so many of the activities of that community. Our heartfelt sympathy to the family.

John Ormando - December 16, 2021 at 05:28 AM

DP

“ Diana Stacy Patterson lit a candle in memory of Evelyn Marie Southwell



Diana Stacy Patterson - December 15, 2021 at 05:39 PM

JL

“ Awesome strong friendly passionate woman. One of a kind. When she married uncle Vern Southwell, the whole family knew we met someone very special. Aunt Evie lit up the room with her smile. A special special soul. Peace be with her soul and with us as we remember the blessings of knowing this amazing person Evie.

Jim Luce - December 15, 2021 at 01:58 PM

IK

So very sorry to lose an amazing lady and friend....many wonderful memories from her time in Clinton!!! May you find peace in your memories....Irene Karapas. ❤️🙏

irene Karapas - December 16, 2021 at 06:15 PM

WL

“ Dear Theresa on the way home I am so so sorry for your loss. I did not know your mother well but I always thought she was a lovely lovely woman my deepest condolences go out to you and your families.

wendy Larkin - December 15, 2021 at 12:56 PM

LT

Theresa my heart is torn for you, I cannot imagine the pain your going through . My mom isn't doing well and it's tearing me up inside. I will pray for you and your family for comfort . 🌹🙏

lidy torres - December 15, 2021 at 07:49 PM

 Susan Mefford

“ Theresa and Luann... So sorry that you have to feel this loss. Our mothers are our source of strength and wisdom. Their love is forever, even after they have left us.

Susan Mefford - December 15, 2021 at 12:05 PM

PP

May she RIP. Evie was a beautiful lady 💖 Praying for you and the family. 🙏🙏🙏

Pam Petosky - December 15, 2021 at 04:29 PM

SS

“ So sorry Theresa! Your Mom was obviously loved by many. May you find peace during these difficult days 🙏

Sue Spratt - December 15, 2021 at 11:52 AM