

My mother, Inge Ursula O'Connor, who we called “Mutti” (German for Mom) or “Omi” (German for Grandma) would have been 93 years old exactly one month from today – May 22nd! Even if I spoke for the next 93 minutes, (which I won't), I still wouldn't come close to expressing how impressive a life she led and the impact she had on her family and friends – both here and across the globe. She was truly a member of the “Greatest Generation”!

So, I'm going to hit the highlights. There are a few words or phrases that come to mind when I think of my mother:

The first one is **FAMILY**

Inge treasured her family and friends. She knew all the “goings on” across the globe of everyone she cared about and shared every win and loss with them. She loved spending time with her family – whether in Germany, or Chile, or here in the US. When I was younger, we spent weeks during Summer almost every year visiting Mutti's family and friends in Europe. Those trips allowed us stay connected to our German family. One of her fondest recent memories was the cruise she took to Bermuda with 16 “9 Cousins” as we called ourselves just this past summer! Inge truly loved all

the joking and laughing we did, plus experiencing Bermuda's amazing beaches with us.

“GERMANIZING” EVERYTHING

I know that's not a real word, but that's what she did. Some of my favorite memories of my mother was how she took American pastimes or events and added “That German Touch”. Her cooking always had an extra flare – her home-made pound cakes and Irish soda bread were amazing! We had fondue bourguignonne for big celebrations every year. Her vegetable garden was always very well organized and labeled. Inge made amazing hand-made Halloween costumes for me when I was younger – you should have seen my Batman costume when I was 10! Plus, she gave unique, handmade birthday and holiday cards to her family every year. She just made everything she touched very unique!

EDUCATION

Inge valued education and was always learning and reading – both newspapers and online. Education is what helped her to go from a WW II refugee to a career at Mobile Oil in Basel. She always wanted us to keep learning and studying plus to “go above and beyond” in everything we did. I

do have to apologize to Ella and Rowan – we may have overbuilt a few school projects when you were younger – remember the owl nest with real feathers plus a remote rotating head or the solar system diorama with battery-powered LED stars? I guess my Mutti's German drive for overdoing things rubbed off on me! Sorry Girls!

NATURE

Inge loved being outside. She loved the beach, hiking in the mountains (when she was younger), anywhere where she could see the sky. Inge enjoyed hosting us down on Cape Cod and these visits allowed my mother to pass on her love of nature and the ocean to Ella and Rowan.

RARELY COMPLAINED

I guess I have to say my mother was “tough”! My mother survived the Great Depression and WW II, then escaped Eastern Germany by jumping off of a moving train. Inge suffered lifelong illnesses due to malnutrition and a lack of medical care during the war but rarely complained. At most she would say “today I’m goofing off” when she felt unwell and couldn’t leave her apartment. She always focused on what she could do vs. what she couldn’t do.

GOD

Inge was faithful to her Lutheran religion, bible study, and her overall belief in God and Heaven. She attended church as often as possible, either in person or online (She watched several 1st Church services on Facebook during the pandemic!) Just this past Easter, Inge drove herself to the First Congregational Church in Shrewsbury near her home because she loved their services and music program and wanted to celebrate Easter there before coming to our house for Easter Brunch.

VERY THANKFUL

And the last word or words I can think of about my mother is THANKFUL. Inge was very thankful for everything that she was able to do and everything her & Pat (my Dad) accomplished in life. She was thankful for the health and successes of her family and grandchildren. She was very thankful that her next generation would never know true hunger like she had experienced. And Inge was thankful that she was able to experience so much with so many family and friends over the years!

My mother - Inge Ursula (Schubert) O'Connor – our Mutti and Omi - will always be in our memory and our love for her will endure. We hope to carry on her values and beliefs for generations to come.