

MARILYN WOODS CODY

AUGUST 19, 1935 – NOVEMBER 17, 2019

SHE WILL BE IN OUR HEARTS FOREVER

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE WITH BUCK CODY

Marilyn is gone physically but she has left me with endless memories that I will cherish the rest of my life. I invite you who knew her as a relative, friend or acquaintance to join me in walking down Marilyn's memory lane as a review and celebration of her life. Because of the coronavirus I know Marilyn would want to do this virtually, rather than in person, respecting the risks of personal contact.

Buck Cody August 29, 2020

It was a beautiful June afternoon in 1950. Jimmy Devlin and I were putting around the Wethersfield Cove in my motorboat. Jimmy suggested we check out the action at the town dock. We pulled up to the dock and there was the prettiest girl I had ever seen. I said, "Hi, I'm Bucky Cody" and she responded sweetly, "Hi, I'm Marilyn Woods." So began 70 years together, 62 of them as husband and wife, on an amazing journey, the memories of which I want to share with the many whose lives Marilyn may have touched. So let's travel together down memory lane.



Bill Cody, Jimmy Devlin, Buck Cody

Wethersfield Cove, 1950



Marilyn High School Graduation 1953 When we met, Marilyn was a high school sophomore and I was a senior. Marilyn later told me that her first impression of me was I had the biggest feet she had ever seen. She also later confessed that after our initial meeting at the town dock and her first boat ride, she went home and told her mother she had just met the boy she was going to marry. I didn't appreciate it at the time, but right then and there, fate made me the luckiest person in the world.



Marilyn

1951

Marilyn entered the world on August 19, 1935 at 4:45 AM, at Hartford Hospital. She was the youngest of 6 children and the daughter of John Thomas Woods and Bertha Osborne Woods. She had 3 sisters, Myrtle, Dorothy and Joan, and two brothers, John and Thomas, all of which, as of 2020, have passed away, except for Joan, who is still living.



Marilyn and her Mother Bertha Woods about 1940





Woods Girls – 1957 Myrtle, Dorothy, Joan, Marilyn

Woods Girls - 1991 Joan, Dorothy, Myrtle, Marilyn





Woods Children around 1990 Marilyn, Joan, Tom, Myrtle, John, Dorothy

Woods Family in Florida Joan, Dorothy, Marilyn, Buck, Connie, Tom

Marilyn grew up living at the family home in historic old Wethersfield, 456 Main St, with her parents and 5 brothers and sisters. Her father immigrated from Ireland as a teenager in search of the American Dream. John Woods founded a successful house painting business in Wethersfield providing for his family, all of whom went on to be successful, responsible citizens, the perfect example of the American Dream. When you consider the early days of his business was during the Depression, it is even more remarkable. It is reported the Woods house, in the 1800's, was used as a halfway house for slaves escaping from the south to Canada.

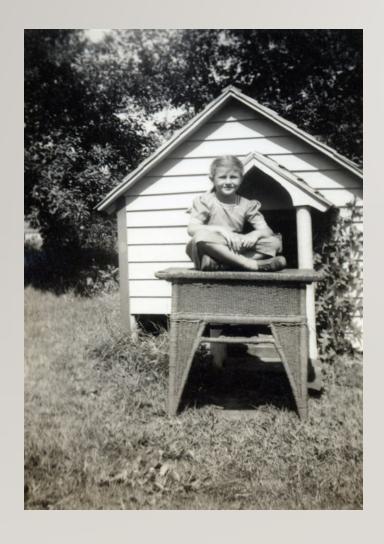
Marilyn was a picture-perfect child and teenager, at least that's what she told me, growing up in a loving family. She attended Stillman Grammar School and completed the 7th through 12th grades at the Wethersfield High School, graduating in 1953. With 6 children in the household, two of them with their spouses, it was quite a challenge for the family, but they made it work, representing a perfect example of a perfect American family. How Marilyn loved the doll house that her father built for her.



Marilyn about 1938



Marilyn about 1940



Marilyn about 1940



Marilyn about 1944



Marilyn High about 1953



Marilyn High School Graduation - 1953 Marilyn worked her way through Mount Ida Junior College as a live-in nanny for a prominent Boston family. She was the youngest of a chain of six Woods children, all but one working their way through college, quite an achievement. Johnny, second oldest, spent his college years fighting for the USA during World War II. I have always been so proud of being part of such a remarkable American family.



Marilyn and college friend - 1955

Back to the Fifty's when Bucky, later shortened to Buck, entered the picture at the Wethersfield town dock. Marilyn and Buck dated steadily that first Summer and during Buck's following senior High School year. Lots of boating, walking Marilyn home from Buck's side of the cove to Marilyn's side, movies at the Webb Theater at 25¢ a ticket and occasional special trip to Hartford for a movie at the Lowes Poli Theatre, followed by pizza at the Pizza Palace.

I remember the first time Marilyn met my family. One day during our first summer I told her I was going to Old Saybrook for a twoweek vacation at my family's cottage, the Red Cottage for those of you in the know. Marilyn quickly replied, "what a coincidence, I'm going to Saybrook those same two weeks to visit my sister, Dorothy". I later learned that she rushed home and phoned Dotty, who lived in Old Saybrook, to arrange a visit. I clearly remember introducing Marilyn to my family. The family had been buzzing, Bucky has a girlfriend. When the family met Marilyn, they couldn't believe that shy Bucky got the prettiest and nicest girl they had ever seen. Marilyn fit right in. She had a remarkable talent for meeting people because of her grace and easy-going manner.



Cody family picnic Old Saybrook 1950's The next 5 years flew by, Marilyn in high school and college and me in college. We only saw each other summers and holidays, but our bond continued strong. Marilyn visited me a couple of times at college for party weekends. You should have seen her expression when I told her we were to occupy the four-poster bed that was my fraternities giant parade float. She went along with it like a real trooper and we were a big hit. Throughout my college and business career Marilyn was a wonderful partner and asset when meeting people. Holidays were with the family and summers were spent working and at the shore. Summers at the shore were special with Wayne Orsie, Harvey Peterson, Dick Keller, Jimmy Devlin and their girlfriends. Although separated by school and other distractions, there was something magical that always brought Marilyn and I back together. Could it have been love?



Marilyn's Birthday Woods House Wethersfield, CT



Marilyn about 1954



Marilyn High School graduation 1953



Marilyn and Buck about 1956



With friends in Old Saybrook about 1955 We both graduated from college in 1956 and began our first full time jobs, me in the U.S. Navy and Marilyn as an American Airlines flight attendant, a sought after and glamourous job in those days. Marilyn was based in New York City and I was based in Portsmouth, Virginia. Although we only saw each other infrequently the next two years and both dated others, our bond continued strong and the few times we were together was as though we were never apart. It was during this period Marilyn had her first claim to fame. She was the flight attendant on an AA flight carrying John F. Kennedy, candidate for President. The newspaper published a photograph of Kennedy at the bottom of an off-ramp. At the top of the stairs were the legs of the flight attendant, Marilyn Woods.



Marilyn 1956



Marilyn – airline school - 1956



Marilyn's New York apartment - 1956

We both retired from our short careers in June 1958 and were reunited full-time, that summer, leading to our marriage October 11, 1958. It was a busy summer seeing old friends and preparing for the October event.



Wethersfield friends - 1958

Although there have been numerous great weddings within Marilyn's and my families, I would like to focus on three.

What a fantastic wedding Marilyn planned for us. The wedding was at the Wethersfield Congregational Church. It included a formal ceremony, numerous beautiful bridesmaids and handsome groomsmen in their formal tuxedos. Marilyn's sister Joan was maid of honor and my father, in absence of my brother who was at National Guard camp, was best man. It was a beautiful, sunny, but windy fall day and the colors were glorious. I remember it as the most beautiful wedding I had ever attended but, of course I was biased.

There was one minor hitch in the wedding ceremony, which Marilyn told me about later. When she was walking down the aisle, she looked at me and my face was all red and blotchy. My mother had sent Marilyn to bed early the night before to rest up for the busy following day. When Marilyn saw my face, she assumed I had partied while she was sleeping. The truth was I had packed my razor the night before and had to borrow one before the wedding, a razor that didn't like my face.



Marilyn - 1958





Marilyn and Buck- 1958

Marilyn – 1958

Wedding #2...

Win and Linda Morris were married 30 years later in 1988 almost to the day of our wedding. It was a beautiful formal wedding, also at the Wethersfield Congregational Church, with a reception across the street at the Webb House barn. Marilyn was so proud that Linda wore her wedding dress, and we were so pleased to have the Morris family become part of our lives, both old Wethersfield families with great historical attachments.



Win's Wedding – 1988 Cody & Morris Family



Win's Wedding – 1988 Buck and Marilyn



Woods Family
Win + Linda's
Wedding



Woods Cousins
Elaine Woods Vein's
Wedding





Win, Marilyn, Buck, Jennifer Kathy Makgill Sisk's wedding Woods Cousins Kathy Makgill Sisk's wedding Wedding #3...

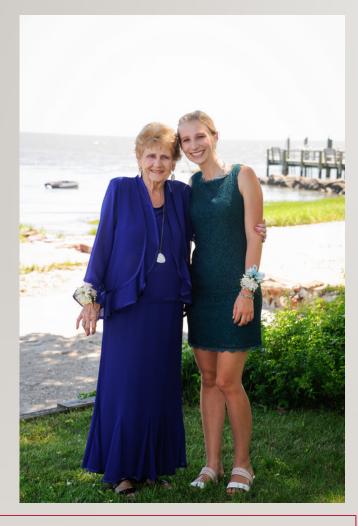
Win's wedding to Renee Alatsas in 2017, 29 years after his first, was very special to Marilyn and me because it was held at the family cottage on Sea Lane in Old Saybrook. Of course, it was a very special welcoming Renee into our family. The balance of Marilyn's immediate family and spouses were in attendance, which is now down to two, with the recent passing of Marilyn, Tom and Steve. Joan and I will try to carry on the family traditions.





Win & Renee's Wedding – 2017 Jennifer, Buck, Marilyn, Win, Renee, Jenna and Christian (Jenna's fiancé)

Win & Renee's Wedding – 2017
Buck, Marilyn and Jenna



Win & Renee's Wedding 2017, Marilyn, Jenna



Win & Renee's Wedding – 2017 Living Woods family and spouses



Cody Cousins Win & Renee's Wedding – 2017



Lisa Rhodes, Renee, Buck, Marilyn, Win Christmas 2018, Naples, FL



Marilyn & Buck's Entrance Win & Renee's wedding June 2017 And the best is yet to come, in the Fall of 2021, when Marilyn's and my granddaughter, Jenna and Christian will tie the knot. I am so looking forward to Christian and his family becoming part of our family, and we, in turn part of his family. Although Marilyn will be watching from afar, I can assure you her presence will be there. I'll see to it!



Jenna with Carcione Family

Jenna, Christian, Adam, Christine, Frank

Back to Marilyn and Buck's wedding in 1958. Off to Mount Airy Lodge in the Pocono's for our honeymoon. Beautiful Fall colors and a special place to begin our wonderful life together. By the way, Marilyn and I won the dance contest.



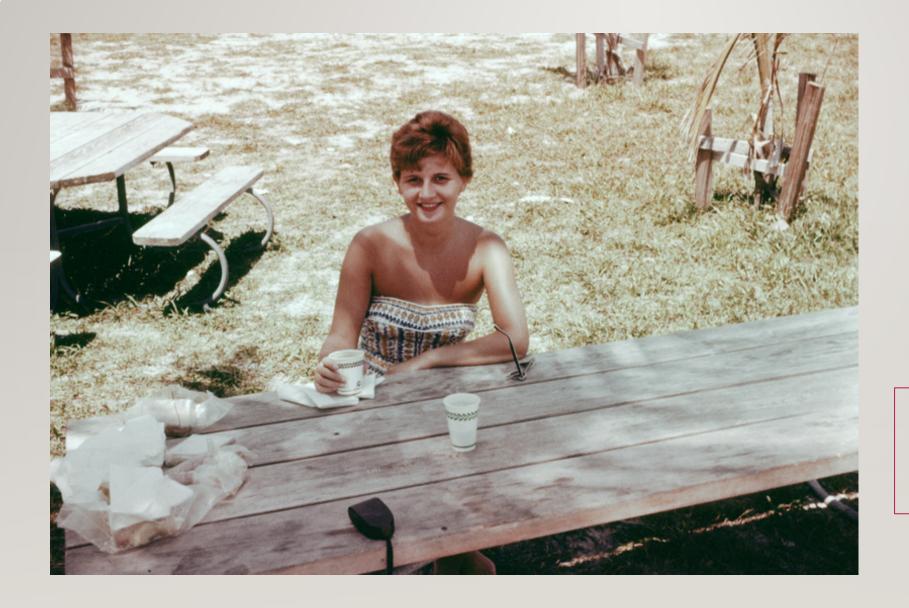


Honeymoon Pocono's - 1958





Marilyn and Buck about 1958



Honeymoon Pocono's 1958 Marilyn

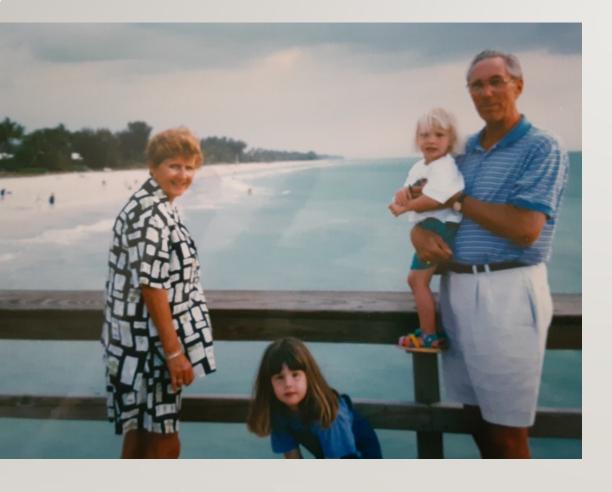
Our marriage has been quite a ride from a 12-foot motorboat to the Bon Bini, two wonderful children, two beautiful granddaughters, a supporting family, imagining the world through travel, and all on a rocket ship ride. In our 62 years of marriage, we have traveled to 28 countries, visited 48 states, lived in 7 different states, lived in 12 different cities or towns, lived in 20 different residences, owned around 13 houses and have moved every 3 - 5 years. With my frequent job changes and constant traveling it would take an unusual spouse to put up with it. Marilyn carried out the role in spades. She chose the houses, arranged the moving, furnished the houses, prepared the meals, set the social calendar, saw to the children's upbringing and education and took care of the cats. Marilyn was the rock and foundation of our life and I owe her so much. If I haven't said it enough, Marilyn, thank you, thank you, thank you.





Bon Bini - 1998

Win, Buck, Jennifer, Marilyn





Helene and Jenna Naples Pier

Christmas 1959 Buck, Marilyn and Win with Buck's family





Caribbean cruise Imagination - 1990

Indian Town Parade – July 4, 2006

Continuing down memory lane, we now move from residence to residence, 20 moves each lasting from 6 months to 13 years. Our first home was a rental apartment, 64 High Court in East Hartford, right next door to Pratt & Whitney's engine test facility ... kind of noisy. I remember Marilyn's first luncheon where she had set a perfect table using her wedding china, silver and linens entertaining the two mothers and grandmother. That and Win's birth are two special memories during this short period.





East Hartford Apartment - 1958

Marilyn's first classy luncheon



Marilyn Pregnant with Win - 1959



Win just born in Marilyn's arms - 1959

Win had arrived in November 1959 and it was obvious we needed more living space. I was making good money, \$2.00 an hour. I also had a night job at Friendly's Ice Cream washing dishes and Marilyn had \$2,000 saved from her job at American Airlines, so we bought a new house in Bloomfield, CT for \$17,500. Jennifer was born there in January 1962. We had a good life in Bloomfield with friends and family. Marilyn joined the Kiwi Club, retired American Airlines flight attendants. They had great parties. She also worked for AA doing travel packing demonstrations, compensated in space available airline passes, which proved to be a great benefit.



Marilyn & Win - April, 1960



Bloomfield 1961 – Our first house



Win & Jennifer - 1964



Christmas at the Rhodes House



Kiwis



Marilyn – AA Packing Demo - 1960

In December 1964 I came home and told Marilyn we were being transferred to Minneapolis. I was told I was going to the Quad Cities which I assumed was Minneapolis (Twin Cities). Being from Connecticut, I never heard of Davenport-Bettendorf-Rock Island-Moline-E. Moline. As a salesman traveling 5 states, I was away 75% of the time so Marilyn had a challenge raising two preschool children without a lot of help from me. She was terrific. Davenport, lowa was not our favorite place to live, but there were lots of young families like us amongst the cornfields. Marilyn surprised me with a 30th birthday party. When I returned, the rec room had become a Caribbean beach. What a blast. Business was good so Marilyn traded in her old VW Beetle for the latest design VW Karmann Ghia.



Davenport 1963 Marilyn's VW Beetle





Davenport - Marilyn with Friends

Davenport 1963 Buck's 30th Birthday

Then suddenly, off to Los Angeles to a new assignment. It was some trip, the four of us in the car, Karmann Ghia in tow, across the country, arriving in L.A. in the pouring rain. L.A. vs. the Quad Cities is quite a contrast. In accordance with standard operating procedure, Marilyn picked out a house, a neat place in Palos Verdes Peninsula, and moved us in. It was an exciting four years. My job again included a lot of traveling so you can imagine how tough it was on Marilyn, but, as always, she stepped right up to the challenge. The family returned to the Connecticut shore for the month of July and I spent my 2 weeks vacation joining them.

We loved our life in California. We attended the movie premiere of Isadora Duncan and sat behind Clint Eastwood. We literally danced with the stars at the after party in Hollywood. At a charity event, Marilyn chummed up to an older lady who insisted on introducing us to her husband. She said, "Meet Jimmy Doolittle." We were really impressed to say the least. Kiwi parties were fun, retired AA flight attendants who really knew how to party. I remember when a neighbor, Fred Schaus, who was general manager of the L.A. Lakers, worked with Marilyn to have a challenge basketball scrimmage at half time between the retired AA flight attendants and retired UA flight attendants. The pretty girls really dressed up and put on quite a show. Marilyn sat on Andy Williams lap who had a court side seat. The fans stayed in their seats, rather than buying beer and hot dogs, to watch the pretty girls run up and down the court.

L.A. was great; family visits to Disneyland, Marineland, Knotts Berry Farm, restaurants, the beach, Las Vegas, Palm Springs, San Francisco and never-ending things to do with people who really know how to live.

It was in California Marilyn learned her famous "wide mouth frog" joke and I learned my spoon trick. As far as Marilyn's joke goes, it was her delivery that made it hilarious. As far as my spoon trick goes, referring to the following photograph, you can see what Marilyn thought of it.





Palos Verdes about 1970 - Win

Palos Verdes 1969 Marilyn, Jennifer, Buck, Win with the cat, Lucky



Rhodes Family Visit Disneyland, CA





Old Saybrook, CT

Block Island, RI



Spoon Trick

But good things must come to an end and in 1970, it was back to Connecticut. Marilyn picked out a neat house in Avon, walking distance to Win's and Jennifer's school. We bought the red cottage in Old Saybrook from my father, so it was family summers in Indiantown. Marilyn and I had learned tennis in California, belonging to the Jack Kramer tennis club, learning from Vic Braden and members including the Austin family (Win played with Tracy Austin). We became enthusiastic tennis players in Avon. Marilyn was quite good. What she lacked in strength and power she made up for in grace and coordination. Her smooth swing carried over to golf in later years, sort of slow motion with minimal power. Marilyn sort of attended President George H.W. Bush's inaugural ball. Our neighbor's daughter married a Bush so the neighbor was invited to the ball. She went in a gown borrowed from Marilyn.





Avon, CT - 1971

Avon, CT Marilyn, Jennifer, Win Five years passed quickly and then it was off to Charlotte, NC. Both kids in High School, Win in track and Jennifer in marching band. She played a mean flute. Marilyn and I continued our tennis careers at Carmel Country Club. Win off to college at MIT in Boston and Jennifer in the high school championship marching band. Back to the Connecticut cottage in the summer, trips to the North Carolina beaches & mountains and an overall great lifestyle.





Charlotte, NC 1980

Our Flutist - 1980

Back to Connecticut in 1983. This time we settled in easily. We had friends and family all around us. Win was in college and Jennifer entered her high school senior year. She was a real trooper, electing to move with her family in her senior year rather than finishing up in North Carolina. Marilyn picked out a house, on the contemporary side this time, in Simsbury. Marilyn met Sally Huber who owned a jewelry store. As I recall, Sally had three employees, Marilyn, Marsha and Jennifer. Marilyn was paid in costume jewelry, which is how she accumulated her vast inventory of costume jewelry. As I previously mentioned, Marilyn was great with people. Jennifer said, my mom was one of the best salespersons I ever knew. If a customer was served by her, they never left the store empty handed. I remember the time Marilyn invited a sales clerk she met in a store to our Thanksgiving dinner, because she was new to the area. With Marilyn there were always surprises, but they were good ones.

Marilyn could take care of herself. I remember the time she was accompanying me on a business trip to Japan, followed by a convention in Arizona. We stored the Arizona bags in an airport locker to pick up after returning from Japan and I had the key. Marilyn was traveling on a space available pass earned doing public relations work for American Airlines. Wouldn't you know it, there was no space available, so I left for Tokyo leaving Marilyn standing in the terminal with locked up suitcases, no key and no reservations for the next 4 days. When I returned to the U.S. the locker was empty and I found Marilyn at the John Gardner's Tennis Ranch in Scottsdale Arizona. When I got there, she introduced me to her tennis partner, Joe Coors. As I told you, Marilyn knew how to take care of herself and how to meet people. It was a great four years, both Win and Jen in college and Win starting his first job. However, the company was sold so we were off to a new job for the 8th time.



Christmas at Simsbury House, 1984



Win, Marilyn – MIT Graduation 1982

Because Pratt & Whitney was sold, I moved on to a company outside the Colt Industry umbrella, Kearney & Trecker Corporation. Milwaukee turned out to be a great small city and a wonderful place to live. Marilyn picked out a former beer baron's mansion on Lake Drive. There were lots of them from the old days, but not currently in demand, and often in disrepair. With the help of a former Kiwi friend, Marilyn renovated and redecorated the place, returning it to the grandeur of years past. It was a special experience living there. Marilyn became friends with Irene Hoyer who owned an event planning business. Irene provided much of the decoration for Win's and Linda's 1988 wedding.

While in Milwaukee I remember a phone call from Linda in 1992 saying our first grandchild, Helene, was on the way. Little did we know then of the tragedy to happen 16 years later when Helene suddenly left us as a result of a brain aneurysm. It was the saddest moment in our lives.

As it was with my former company, the Milwaukee company was sold, so were off to my last job in Alexandria, MN.





Milwaukee House, 1990

Milwaukee Circus Parade Clayton Morell, Marilyn, Dorothy, Elizabeth Purvis Alex, as it was affectionally called, is north west of Minneapolis and known for its long, cold, snowy winter. After the first winter Marilyn said, "its too cold for me"... We were nearing retirement, so Marilyn spent 3 months in Florida the second winter, bought a condo in Naples during the third winter, sight unseen by me, and we both retired to Naples during the fourth winter. What I can say about Alex is, a great place to live if you like the outdoors, long winters in the negative twenty's, ice fishing, deer hunting and eat walleyed pike. I remember when we first got there, Marilyn asked about a good woman's clothing store in Alex and she was referred to Walmart. This did not represent Marilyn's standards. The first woman Marilyn met said she could tell Marilyn was from outside of Alex because she was wearing earrings. Alex was an adjustment from previous cities. But the people were great. We will always have a special place in our lives for Alex because that was where we lived when a very special person was born, Jenna.



Buck & Marilyn Win's Wedding - 1988



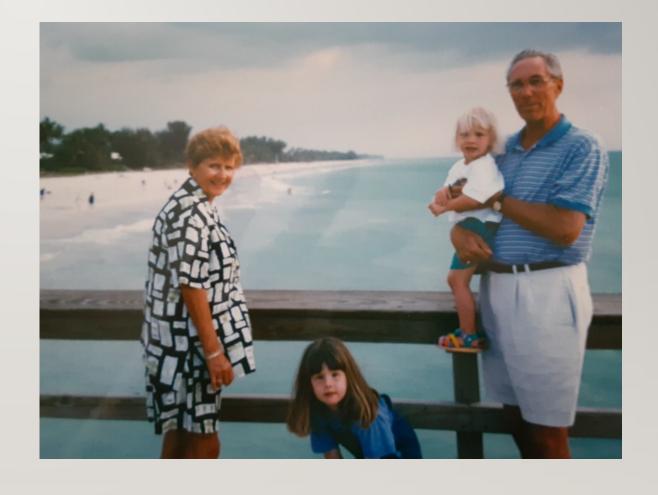
Marilyn & Helene - 1992

Retirement in Florida has been a major part of our life, all 22 years. We started with a condo, upgraded to a house, swimming pool and all, and finally downgraded to a condo. It has something to do with age. Florida in the winter and Connecticut in the summer has been a perfect life. Although we enjoyed the many places we have lived, the Florida-Connecticut combination comes out on top. There is so much to do, and you have time to do it, in a relaxing way. Pick your sport, golf, tennis, swimming, croquet, whatever. We chose golf. Relaxing breakfast, keeping up with the news No more snow or ice. Travel to places you always dreamed of visiting. And most of all, watching your children and grandchildren grow and develop without having the responsibility of being directly involved. You can enjoy them for who they are, not who you want them to be. A few family photographs follow representing our retirement years.

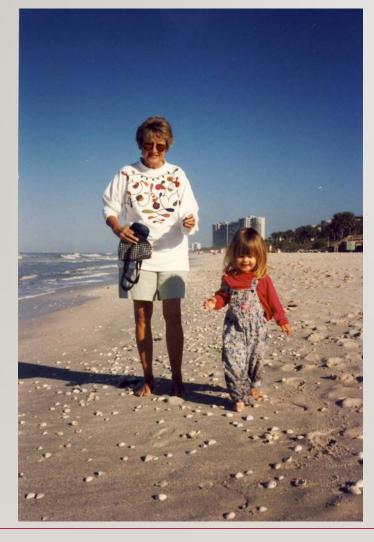


Marilyn Florida





Buck, Marilyn, Helene, Jenna Indiantown Bridge Marilyn, Buck, Helene, Jenna Florida



Marilyn, Helene Florida Beach – Christmas, 1994



Marilyn, Jenna, Jennifer, Helene – Indiantown Beach - 1995



Marilyn & Helene Florida



Helene, Buck, Marilyn Florida



Marilyn, Jenna, Helene Florida - April 2003



BBQ – Summer, 2003





Woods Family Cousins Indiantown

Linda, Helene, Jenna, Marilyn Christmas 2007 Cranbury, NJ



Buck & Marilyn Indiantown Rainbow - 2015 Lisa, Marilyn, Renee March 2019 – Naples, FL



Win, Renee, Marilyn, Buck August 29, 2019 Red 36 – Mystic, CT Last photo of Marilyn During our marriage, Marilyn and I have not only lived in a variety of places, we have traveled the country and world extensively. We have traveled for business, for pleasure and a combination of each. We have traveled by car, plane, tour bus, cruise ship, river boat and time share. The following photographs show Marilyn in a few of the many places she has been.





Marilyn and Buck in Florida



Marilyn in Nantucket harbor

- Pregnant with Win

Summer 1959



Marilyn on Oceanic Cruise - 1963 Marilyn with Buck's parents (Ed & Kay Cody) and Win before Oceanic Cruise - 1963

Marilyn with table mates Oceanic Cruise - 1963



Buck and Marilyn Arizona



Jennifer and Marilyn Mexico



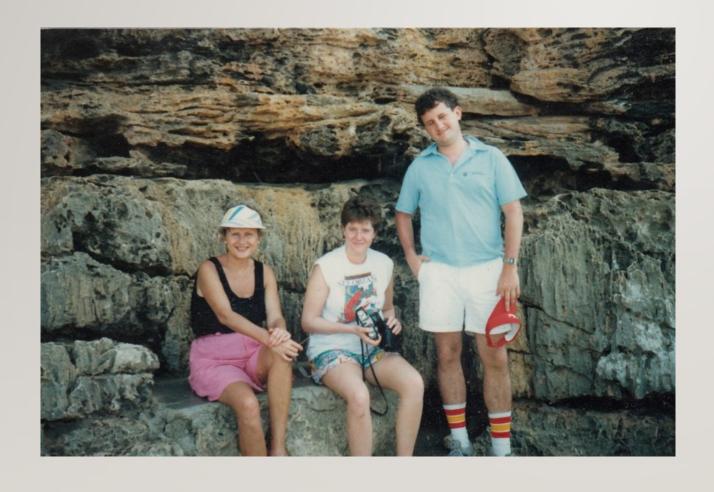


Jennifer, Linda Garnelis, Marilyn Charlies Bar, Aruba Julie Rhodes, Buck, Marilyn Japan





Marilyn & Buck Sailboat Marilyn Japan



Marilyn, Jennifer, Win Aruba



Marilyn, Buck Naples Botanical Garden





Linda, Marilyn, Jennifer, Win Aruba Marilyn Aruba





Marilyn & Jennifer Aruba

Marilyn Greece



Elizabeth Purvis, Lisa Rhodes, Marilyn Ireland - 2011



Jennifer, Marilyn, Buck, Jenna, Win Vatican City Christmas 2014

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge and thank the many family, friends, doctors, medical personnel and responders who supported and provided compassion and concern during Marilyn's difficult years. I want to particularly thank our church, the Naples United Church of Christ, for their compassionate support. I remember when Helene died 12 years ago, Rev. Ron Patterson met with Marilyn and helped her through her grief, and we were not even members of the Church. We soon became members and the compassionate support the church particularly Rev. Dawson Taylor and Rev. Deborah Kaiser-Cross has been unfailing in helping Marilyn through her last 2 to 3 difficult years.

So that's about it. We have relived 84 years of Marilyn's life. It hardly seems enough for someone who has touched so many lives in so many ways. Marilyn lived a great, full life although I wish I had her for a few more years where I could see her, hear her and touch her. I accept that it was God's will to move her spirit to where she can rekindle her relationship with family and friends who have preceded her. The way I look at it, Marilyn has left us physically, but she is still here through memories. There is seldom a day when memory doesn't trigger some experience that Marilyn and I so enjoyed. To relive these memories is very special to me. I realize that memory fades with time, but I believe it can be rekindled and I promise you, Marilyn, you will always be in my thoughts. Just visiting your resting place at Riverside will be an important way to rekindle those memories. So, Marilyn, I leave you with these thoughts. I am blessed that you chose that day to go down to the Wethersfield cove. I am further blessed that you supported and guided me for 70 years. Please save a place for me where -ever you are so we can be together again. And give my love to our loved ones who preceded us with a special hug for Helene. I always have and always will love you. With that I now close, as did Bob Hope so many times, with the start of memories.

Thanks for the memories
For better or for worse
In sickness and in health
How lovely it was, even without wealth
Thank you so much.

Thanks for the memories
Of faults that you forgave
Of boating on a wave
And stockings in the basin when a fellow needs a shave
Again, thank you so much

Thanks for the memories
I loved you when I met you
I loved you as my wife
And I will always love you the rest of my life
Thank you, Thank you so much









Marilyn & Buck – 1956, 1988, 2017