

## **Marian Syltebo – BS 1944 Dietetics**

Age 100 – Bellevue, WA

Marian Jane Challoner was born on February 18, 1924, in Fargo, North Dakota and she passed away on April 27, 2024, in Bellevue, Washington, just a couple of months after celebrating her 100th birthday with family and friends. Marian was the second of three children born to Olivia Ann Challoner (nee Ladner) and Frederick John Challoner.

Marian studied Home Economics at the North Dakota Agricultural College in her hometown of Fargo. She focused on becoming a clinical dietician, working hard to complete four years of college in only three years because of the War. When she finished her three years of schooling, she was required to do a one-year internship before she was a fully licensed dietician. The only place Marian wanted to do that internship was Seattle because some of her fondest memories were the times she spent weeks with her uncle's family in Edmonds, Washington during the Depression. At the end of her internship in Seattle, she worked in a few different hospitals in Minnesota and North Dakota before deciding to return to Seattle.

While working at Swedish Hospital in Seattle, Marian was introduced by mutual friends to Bjarne Syltebo, an Engineering student at the University of Washington. They began dating in July of 1948 and they married in April of 1949. Over the next few years, they had two sons, Mark and Tom, and a daughter, Beth, and moved to a house in downtown Bellevue. They lived there only about a year when Bjarne was sent by Boeing to work in Nottingham, England for nineteen months, so the family of five packed up and moved. They returned to their Bellevue home in 1958 and the family grew to seven with the birth of two more sons, Jon and Scott.

In 1966, while still raising these five children, Marian and her friend decided to open a catering business specializing in weddings and office parties. She ran that business for nearly twenty years. Marian was also an avid community volunteer, doing PTA work at her children's schools and volunteering for the Overlake Service League and the Overlake Hospital Auxiliary.

Marian was preceded in death by her first-born son Mark in 1997 (ALS) and by her husband Bjarne in 2011. She is survived by four children: Tom Syltebo (Judy Fisher), Beth Friesner, Jon Syltebo, and Scott Syltebo (Loni) and by Mark's widow, Danna. She is also survived by her ten grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. She was the grand matriarch of this large family and will be greatly missed. A funeral mass for Marian will be held on Saturday, May 11 at 11 am at Sacred Heart Catholic Church located at 9460 NE 14th St, Clyde Hill, Washington.