



# **Sarah Marie Swope**

JUL 7, 1928 - APR 20, 2012



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## **Sarah Marie Swope**

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**S**arah Marie Tipton Swope, 83, passed away April 20, 2012, in Decatur, Illinois. Marie was born July 7, 1928, in Moulton, Iowa, daughter of the late Fred and Mary (Davis) Tipton. The family moved to Ottumwa, Iowa, in 1942. In 1947, Marie married Gordon Lee Swope. They divorced in 1960.

In 1959, Marie began work in the Cedar Rapids, Iowa, office of Investors Life of Iowa (subsequently Life Investors, Aegon, and later Transamerica). At that time there were about a half dozen employees in the Cedar Rapids office. The pursuit of her career involved moves to Omaha, Nebraska; Los Angeles, California; and back to Cedar Rapids, Iowa; where she officially retired from Aegon in 1991. Marie continued to work part-time as a consultant at Aegon until February 2010.

She cared deeply for the Cedar Rapids community and spent many hours volunteering. In the past, she served as president of the Five Seasons Senior Housing Board, served on the RSVP Advisory Council, the United Way Cabinet, Cedar Rapids Ambassadors (Chair 1988-89), and volunteered at the Community Free Clinic. Marie was honored as the 1990 YMCA Woman of the Year. She enjoyed attending performances of the Cedar Rapids Symphony, local and national theater productions, playing bridge, and book clubs.

Marie loved to travel and considered herself fortunate to have taken numerous business trips and vacations throughout the United States and much of the world, including most of Europe, New Zealand, Australia, and Canada.

Marie leaves many legacies... hard work, dedication, a sense of responsibility... but to those who knew her best, her faith in God would be considered her enduring quality. As with everyone, life presented 'ups and downs,' but through every circumstance, she found comfort and strength in the Bible, prayer, and fellowship with others. Marie was a very active member at Stonebridge Church, where she served on the Women's Ministries Team, and participated in Tuesday Morning Break



## Obituary

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Bible Study, Apples of Gold, and the Prayer Chain.

Health issues necessitated her move to Imboden Creek Gardens Assisted Living in Decatur, Illinois, in 2010.

Marie is survived by her son, Craig (Mary Beth) Swope of Carson City, Nevada; her daughter Cheryl (Kirk) Schmidt of Decatur, Illinois; grandchildren Niscah (Ronnie) Moller of Grandview, Texas; Staff Sgt. James Tyler (Misty) Schmidt of Ft. Campbell, Kentucky; Matthew Schmidt of New York, New York; great-grandchildren Sarah, Trey, Aidan, and Riley Moller of Grandview, Texas; Mackenzie Rasar of Metamora, Illinois; brother Charles (Susan) Tipton of Sims, Arkansas; sister Lois (Larry) Huddleston of Ottumwa, Iowa; many nieces and nephews, and many, many dear friends.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Grant Tipton, and sister, Neva Tipton Root.

Marie's family would like to thank the excellent and caring staff at Imboden Creek Gardens and Imboden Creek Living Center for their dedication and support.

A celebration of life service will be held at a later date in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Cedar Rapids Community Health Center or Stonebridge Church.

The family of Sarah Marie Swope is being served by the Graceland/Fairlawn Funeral Home, 2091 N. Oakland Ave. Decatur, IL. Please view the online obituary, send condolences, and share memories at [www.gracelandfairlawn.com](http://www.gracelandfairlawn.com).



## Tribute Wall

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EB

**Elaine And Buddy Brinkley** posted:

We send our love and sympathy to Marie's family. We had many memorable times with Marie on Life Investors trips. She will be fondly remembered.

April 30 at 6:49 PM

MR

**Miles Root** posted:

I do fondly remember my Aunt Marie as a very giving and helping individual. My visits to California back in the 70's I recall as they were just yesterday as she treated me as a royal guest in her home. She even gave me her car to drive around the city as I would drive her to work each day. We would dine each evening at one of her favorite restaurants. I recall speaking to her then about spiritual realities that were happening in my life at the time. Whaat a time it was! I know that our Father used her throughout her life to help so many others, something she did just because she was made that way as a result of her relationship to Him. She returns now back to her true home and will no doubt be used once again for God's purpose both in this age and in the ages to come. May we ourselves rest in His peace as we realize in our own spirits that God's purpose has been fulfilled in her life on this earth, for she Lives!

April 26 at 7:24 AM

JD

**John And Diane Davis** posted:

Dearest family members, Please know that so many of us thought so very much of our dear Marie. John and I go back to the late 80's with Life Investors. Marie always had such a sweet way about her. She loved everyone and made you feel so welcomed and at home. She had such a pleasant smile for everyone. She rubbed off on you. She was just fun to be around and visit with. Please know that we are all thinking of you at this sad time in your lives. Blessings to each of you. John and Diane Davis

April 25 at 3:41 PM

DS

**Darlene Schmidt** posted:

Dear Family, Only Faith, Time, Family, Friends and Good Memories will ease the pain you're feeling. Marie was a kind lady who helped many patients complete forms for free medications. Our deepest sympathy to each of you and we are grateful for the Memorial gifts. Darlene Schmidt  
CEO Community Health Free Clinic

April 23 at 2:53 PM



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DF

**David Fitch** posted:

Dear Family, I was sorry to read about Marie's passing. May God bless her and be with all of you....

April 23 at 6:47 AM

CB

**Charlie Becker** posted:

Marie was a wonderful lady who was incredibly involved in her community. Marie helped Camp Courageous grow from serving 211 campers with special needs back in the summer of 1974 to over 6,000 today. She helped sell pineapples for the camp, raffle tickets for a sports car Life Investors was giving away on their 25th Anniversary, with the proceeds going to camp, and so much more. I have Marie's picture on my office wall from LI's 25th Anniversary Celebration....presenting a check, which at that time, was the biggest fund raiser in the history of camp. Marie has been dearly missed....but what a beautiful legacy she leaves behind.

April 23 at 5:57 AM

SF

**Sheila Farquer** posted:

I always admired but never truly understood my aunt until after I read her biography. We visited about her life after I read that missive, and I shared with her about how I had always wanted to be closer, but she seemed so distant, so out of reach – so busy with a life full of immediate family and friends. Her business acumen, her independence and confidence, set her apart, yet inspired me in my professional life. Yet she never forgot family. Aunt Marie was the one who worked to ensure that the generations always remembered that they were offspring of Fred and Mary Tipton. She was the one to plan the family reunions, keep cousins informed – to keep in touch. Why she had to experience the mental "tumor" that robbed her of mind, I will never understand, but God has always had her in His hand; and now He has welcomed her Home, setting her free! The chains are broken that locked her in. Her Spirit rekindled, she lives again. She left this world not knowing son or daughter. But she left knowing she had a friend. I will always love you Aunt Marie; and I am so happy you get to enjoy your heavenly reunion now.

April 22 at 7:58 PM

BR

**Bill And Wezzie Root** posted:

So sorry to hear of Marie's passing. We are thinking of you. Bill and Wezzie

April 22 at 7:34 PM



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PW

**Pat Waskow** posted:

When the word spread around Life Investors that Marie Swope was back, I, not being an old-timer, couldn't help but wonder who they were talking about. For the next 30+ years Marie continually made new friends as she shared books, bridge, travel, and hospitality! So glad to have had the chance to know her.

April 22 at 4:42 PM

RH

**Ramona Hansen** posted:

My sympathy to the family. Marie was such a wonderful lady and such a positive person. She was such an asset to the Life Investors family and will never forget her warm smile she shared with everyone there.

April 22 at 1:40 PM

KH

**Kathy Hall** posted:

I was one of the many nonprofit directors who worked with Marie when she managed AEGON's charitable contribution process. She was a delight and a wonderful community advocate. She will be missed.

April 22 at 10:03 AM

TS

**Terry Steinbach** posted:

My condolences to family and all the wonderful friends that Marie accumulated throughout her productive and memorable life. When she left Cedar Rapids the last time, I knew God was calling her for a new assignment. May those on earth who received the love and benefits of Marie's neverending commitment to make life better show our appreciation for her in our prayers.

April 22 at 9:38 AM

JW

**Jack Winnike** posted:

I worked with Marie at AEGON. She was a lovely woman and a friend to many. My condolences to all of the family and friends for your loss.

April 21 at 2:53 PM



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AH

**Amber Haun** posted:

Grandma Swope was a wonderful, independent woman and I feel very blessed to have had her a part of my and my childrens' lives.

April 21 at 1:33 PM

BW

**Bill Waldie** posted:

Marie was one of the first folks to great me when I started at Life Investors way back when. She was always friendly, helpful and contributed greatly to the Life Investors family. While she will be missed, the great memories, stories and generosity of Marie will live on.

April 21 at 1:30 PM

PR

**Pd Root** posted:

Sending my deepest condolences. I do fondly remember those times of everyone gathering in Ottumwa and Grampa, Marie or both would be playing on the upright piano – singing and yodeling to beat the band, sharing that special "joyful noise" that comes from deep within; and always living by Fred Tipton's motto "we may not have much, but what we have you're welcome to it".

April 21 at 12:45 PM



# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Sarah by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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