



# **Thelma (Taft) Cohagen (nee Angles)**

JUL 15, 1942 - JUL 13, 2024



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I write this in the first person to let you know that I lived, loved and died. I will go into the here-after with a smile and looking forward to seeing my Mom and Dad and the three babies that never made it to life. Thelma Louise Cohagen died on Saturday, July 13, 2024, at Genesis Hospital.

I was born July 15, 1942 in Zanesville, the daughter of Mona Angles and Robert Mathew. I started school in a one room schoolhouse and graduated from Zanesville High School in 1960 and Bethesda Hospital School of Nursing in 1963.

I practiced in almost all fields of nursing throughout my career. I wanted to see what each area meant to others. I worked at both Bethesda and Good Samaritan Hospitals, shift nurse at Essix Wire, Director of Nursing for Helen Purcell Home, Federal Medicare and retired from the Ohio Department of Health in 2009 after many years of service.

What gave me the most satisfaction was when I was campaigning for better care and the rights of all persons. I was active in the community as a past 4-H advisor, 20-year Service Employees International Union Board member, past President of Civic League Board, Bethesda Alumni, Class of 1960 Zanesville High School Alumni and past secretary of the Muskingum County Republican Women's Club. I volunteered for many organizations when and where I felt there was a need and without being asked or being an official member of any of them.

My profession and varying board activities afforded me the opportunity to travel across this great county and I appreciated all that was given me. I was politically active and didn't mind sharing my views on a subject regardless of party affiliations. I did understand that we are all entitled to our own opinions and that doesn't make us less worthy.

I never met a stranger. I believed that everyone deserved a chance to do well in life. I enjoyed animals of all kinds, sewing, crafts and anything that challenged my abilities and mind or that brought joy to others. I never really cared for my name until the movie "Thelma and Louise". It



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was fun to reference that movie and my name often saying I was both homicidal and suicidal and you got to choose which.

I always said that I wanted to have the "Last word" and now I have had it! I started to write this obituary and eulogy long before my death, as well as making my shroud. I never bought into any man-made religion but was a woman of great faith. I believed in miracles and praised God for the miracles he gave me in my health struggles over many years. I cared deeply for those around me and for those who needed someone to believe in them. Sometimes my frankness caused people to shy away. My favorite saying came from my Grandpaw, "Time is money and we can't afford to waste either one!"

I leave behind my loving husband and best friend, Roger Cohagen of the home; daughters, April (John) Gibson and Crystal (Gary) Browning of Zanesville, "adult adoption" children Mary and Scot Durst of Nashport who have provided me with such wonderful friendship, Danielle Mason, Judge Maria Kalis; grandchildren Lakyn Browning and Blake Browning of Zanesville and Liberty Durst and Jhonen Durst of Nashport, Lydia Durst and Manny McCoy of Arizona; great grandson Jax of Zanesville; half brother David (Donna) Mathew of Dresden and half sister B.J. (Ray) McFadden of Newcomerstown; brother in-law Rod (Jeanie) Cohagen, ex sister in-law Carol Sue Mix and several beloved cousins including Mona Powell, Danny Angles, Beth Allen and Linda Hughes and several nieces, nephews, and friends. I cared about all those young women that I considered "daughters". I dearly loved my sister-friend, Karen Stotts.

I was preceded in death by my wonderful mother, my beloved dad, Bob Blake, father Robert Mathew, half sister Carolyn Ankrum Hare, cousins Dan Smith, Sandy Harry, and Terry Angles; brothers and sisters in-law, Ronald (Marlene) and Rich (Judy) Cohagen, niece Molly Udder and the father of my children, Larry Taft.

Friends and family may call Thursday, July 18, 2024, from 2pm-4pm and 6pm-8pm at the Frazeyburg Chapel of Vensil & Chute Funeral home, 110 West Third Street. Funeral services will be 1:00 PM, Friday, July 19, 2024, at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Frazeyburg Cemetery.



## Tribute Wall

**Thelma (Taft) Cohagen (nee Angles)**

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RM

**Rick And Carol Mcknight** posted:

Our deepest sympathy for your loss.

July 25 at 4:43 AM

PV

**Pam Vensil** posted:

Sending my sympathy to you and your family Roger.

July 17 at 3:53 PM

TM

**Tammy Mix** posted:

I'll never forget when you waltzed into Sears where I was working and slapped a check on the counter and said, "Now go take your damn Nursing boards!" Or the time I walked into Adam's Lane Nursing Home to apply for a job while you were doing a site audit and walking down the hall with Jean, the DON, (who I also happened to know)... the conversation that ensued when you explained how we knew one another and Jean explaining how she knew me, and the most perfect timing of me showing up while you both were there. Suffice it to say, I got the job before I even filled out the application! Thank you for always encouraging/pushing me to pursue my Nursing career, which is varied like yours was, and now 25 years strong. We always got along well... we had a mutual understanding of each other and our roles in the Taft/Mix families, and I always appreciated your candor and straightforward nature. I always said, "Thelma tells it how it is!" You will be dearly missed, but I know you're in a much better place. Love, Tammy

July 17 at 1:52 PM

KS

**Kathy Sterling** posted:

Roger, Your Sincere sympathy to you a family . Your Cousin Kathy & Bill Sterling

July 17 at 8:43 AM

JN

**Jeff Norris** posted:

Roger,so sorry for your loss,my deepest sympathy to you and all your family.

July 17 at 4:14 AM



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CM

**Carol Mix** posted:

I would like to say how much I will miss you always and will love you forever.

July 16 at 10:45 AM

DM

**Donna Miller** posted:

It is with my deepest sympathy that I write how much Thelma meant to me. She was strong and very good to me even though we did not see each other often. She is in the arms of God and not suffering any more. Bless Roger for his love for her. They were made for each other. Bless you Thelma.

July 16 at 6:33 AM

EW

**Eric Wasson** posted:

Roger, my sympathies to you and all. I always enjoy our chats at breakfast or wherever we would run into each other.

July 16 at 12:52 AM

RP

**Rick And Becky Priest** posted:

Our sincere sympathy to your family

July 15 at 5:23 PM

TF

**'Tom - A\*\*' Fosco** posted:

I was saddened to hear this, I started at ODH right after my mom passed. I always thought of her as my 2nd mom. After I left ODH we stayed in touch. A wonderful, ornery, classy lady, I am so glad to have been blessed to have met you. Rest easy my dear friend.

July 15 at 5:23 PM

JS

**Jenn, David, Spencer And Savannah** posted:

Dear Thelma, thank you for your friendship with mom, your love for Roger, and for your steadfastness through everything. You'll be missed. Love,

July 15 at 4:07 PM



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**Carolyn Green** posted:

Roger, I was so sad to hear of the death of Thelma. She was a great lady! I love that she wrote her own obit ! She nailed it!!! Praying for you and the family! May you find peace and comfort that the Lord provides. Take care of yourself, Carolyn Geen

July 15 at 11:54 AM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Thelma (Taft) by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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