

Marlene Ellen (Hurley) Dion stepped through the final door on February 15, 2025. She was born in Appleton to Donald and Grace (Otto) Hurley on May 9, 1937. Marlene attended St. Mary Grade School, Appleton and St. Mary High School, Menasha. As a child, Marlene could never read enough books or learn enough about the world. After high school she wanted to continue her education and pursue a career. As a woman in the 1950s, she felt she had two choices - nurse or teacher. Marlene chose to be a nurse and that was a blessing. She attended nurse's training at St. Agnes in Fond du Lac.

Following graduation from St. Agnes, she and three of her nurse cohorts headed to sunny California and settled in Long Beach, working at the VA. While living there she met her future husband, Hector, at the Acapulco Inn. Marlene always said a bar was the best place to meet your husband! They married in 1962. Hector's job took them to New Jersey a few years later. Hector passed away on Thanksgiving in 1972. Marlene decided it was best for her and her three children to move back to Appleton to be near family.

Marlene's love for learning continued and she returned to school to earn her Bachelor of Science from Milton College. She resumed her nursing career at St. Elizabeth Hospital, working primarily on the surgical floor. Marlene became involved with ostomy patients and for many years volunteered to lead a support group for them. Everyone called Marlene for her expert medical advice.

As a defender of the underdog, Marlene was dedicated to the fight for equal rights for all. This conviction led her to become involved in the Democratic Party where she made many friends and fought for noble causes.

After retirement, Marlene faced a number of serious medical challenges that required her to spend many days and nights at St Elizabeth's Hospital and the last few years of her life at assisted living facilities. Marlene would always enjoy talking "shop" with the nurses and staff at whatever facility she was in and never stopped advocating for nursing as a profession. We would like to thank the staff of every facility she visited and St Croix Hospice for their care and support during Marlene's final days.

Marlene is survived by her three children: James (Erin) Dion, Auburn, CA, Jaci (Matt Lambert) Dion, Auburn, CA, and Jay Dion, Appleton; grandchildren: Zoe Dion and Mac Lambert; Sisters: Susan Dailey, and Kelly (Tim) Robertson all of Appleton; Brother Don (Kuni) Hurley, NJ; Marlene is further survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. She is preceded in death by her husband: Hector Dion; her parents: Donald and Grace Hurley; sister: Patricia (Hurley) Schabo; brother, Michael Hurley; and brothers-in-law, Donald Schabo and Michael Dailey.

Marlene was a member of the Wisconsin Nurses Association and a champion for nursing as a profession and for health care as a human right. In lieu of flowers, a donation to the WNA's Nightingale Tribute Scholarship Fund would be a fitting tribute.

<https://www.wisconsinnurses.org/membership/nightingale-tribute/>

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.