

Marie Koss Potter Warsaw (1916 – 2012)

I am sad to report the passing of my mother Marie Koss Potter Warsaw on May 22, 2012. She died peacefully at the home she shared with her daughter, Cheryl Wiemer. She was born December 24, 2016, the daughter of Hazel Bell Jones and Martin J. Koss. Her birth name was Ethel Marie Koss, named after her paternal grandmother Julia Ethel Pipkin. She enjoyed good health until the final few months of her life.

She wrote a book “Life in the Twentieth Century” that was self-published in 2000. The book interleaves her life story with a history of how homemaking and nursing has changed during her lifetime. A second edition is soon to be published posthumously as a “Print-on-Demand” book that will be available through Amazon and other book sellers.

In September 2006 she organized her own 90th year celebration. She chose September rather than her actual birthday so that her family did not have to travel in bad weather. She invited more than 100 people and nearly everyone came to her celebration. The party was held at Ault Park, a Masonic Lodge and banquet facility just two blocks from her home in East Peoria. She and Cheryl frequently had their Friday meal there. When she called them to tell them she was a regular customer and would like to rent their facility for her 90th year celebration they were somewhat taken aback. They couldn't imagine any regular customer they knew who was anywhere near 90 years old. She hired a live band for the occasion and danced with nearly every male attending the party. It was an incredible event and everyone had a wonderful time helping her celebrate.

In May 2011 she accompanied Cheryl to a family gathering near Albuquerque, NM where she was honored by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. My wife and I last saw her at her home in Highland Park, IL in August 2011 when we visited Illinois for my wife's 50th high school reunion in Peoria. Although she had trouble getting around she enjoyed a hearty lunch of fresh corn on the cob and a BLT sandwich with those wonderful Illinois tomatoes. I last talked to her on Mother's Day just nine days before her death.

We are all sad to lose her but we are also grateful for having had her in our lives for so many years. She lives on in the hearts and minds of all who knew her.