

Tribute to Margie Hutinger

by Meegan Wilson



A maverick is defined as *“Being independent in thought and action or exhibiting such independence.”* Margie was a maverick, she was life itself. She will be missed.

This is very sad news. On October 7, 2018 Margie Hutinger died of a myocardial infarction while on a cruise with one of her best friends in Rhodes, Greece. She was taking a walk on the island when it happened. The island is known for the Colossus of Rhodes, one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The Colossus was a giant statue almost as tall as the Statue of Liberty that was built for their sun god Helios celebrating a fight for their freedom and independence in 305 BC. It was built between 292-280 BC, but was demolished 60 years later due to an earthquake. Visiting this site must have been on Margie's bucket list.



Margie's son, Chuck, said “Margie always had a wonderful sense of humor. When I received a copy of the death certificate, it was in Greek. I can see Margie looking at me with a twinkle in her eye and saying ‘See Chuck, it's still all Greek to you!’”

Margie was a fixture in the Florida LMSC for 8 years serving as the Florida LMSC Records and Top Ten Chair from 1999 through 2006. Chuck assisted Margie computer skills during this time. In 2007 she received the Florida LMSC Service award for her service and dedication.

Margie attended the USMS convention for the first time as a delegate in 1999. She served on several USMS committees since then - the Records and Tabulation Committee from 2000 – 2007, the Fitness Committee from 2003-2007, the Recognition and Awards Committee from 2008 – 2013, and the History and Archives Committee from 2015-2017.

In 2003 she received the USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award. Margie and Paul Hutinger received the USMS Fitness Award that same year by promoting a “virtual swim series” as a motivational tool to encourage swimmers to get fit.

If we delve a little into her background, we will find that Margie's mother, Frieda Ruder Moser, was born in Hugsweier, Germany and moved to the United States, to Kidron, Ohio, in 1925. She married Glenn Moser, the youngest son of the family she worked for as a housekeeper in 1927. They had three children, Clare (Clarence), Art (Arthur Glenn) and Margie (Margaret Ann). Margie was the youngest, born in 1940.

Margie graduated from Dalton High School in Dalton, Ohio and received a scholarship to attend Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where she met her first husband, Allan Gene Simsic.

They were married in 1966 and had three children, Ann, Matthew and Michael. She was a swim mom taking her children to swim meets and finally decided that she wanted to swim and compete herself. She joined Wisconsin Masters in 1987 at the age of 47 and in 1988 she received her first National Top Ten finish, 10th place in the 100 breaststroke in the 45-49 age group. She became a member of Lincoln Masters, Illinois in 1991 and then transferred to St. Pete Masters on January 1, 1992.

Margie Simsic met Paul Hutingger at a swim meet in 1989 in Wisconsin. On May 16, 1993 they were married on the North Shore pool deck in St. Petersburg, Florida with Judge Robert Beach presiding. It was a second marriage for both of them. They were devoted to each other for over 20 years. Paul Hutingger was still competing at the age of 89 when he died of skin cancer in 2014.

Margie was one of the charter members of the Florida Maverick Masters (FMM), founded on December 26, 1996. She and Paul were the leaders and true motivators of FMM. They were the glue that binds a club together. In 2000 she was awarded "Maverick of the Month". She served as secretary, treasurer, registrar and co-newsletter editor with Paul. The Maverick Lane Lines received the USMS/TYR Newsletter of the Year Award in 2008.



In 1999 she ran the USMS 3000/6000 Postal Championship. Her motto on the final results read, "The meek may inherit the earth... but they'll never rule the water." Margie ran two more USMS National postal events, the 1 Hour Postal Championships in 2002 and 2007 and Chuck volunteered his help for both events. Chuck received the Dorothy Donnelly Service Award in 2007 for his continual volunteer efforts. In 2011 Margie received the Florida LMSC Club Service Award for all the work she did for the Florida Maverick Masters.

Since her Top Ten finish in 1988 Margie had received 10 more National Top Ten individual finishes and 81 National Top Ten relay finishes with five of those in 1st place receiving All

American recognition.

In 2010, Margie completed another item on her bucket list – a triathlon when she turned 70. She completed the Meet and Mighty Triathlon in a time of 59 minutes, 30 seconds and finished second in her age group!

