

# Obituaries

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## Former Mayor of Lewiston Marilyn Toohey passes



Marilyn Toohey  
Marilyn Toohey, of Lewiston, passed away on July 2, 2023,

eight days after her family joyfully celebrated with her in commemoration of her 100th birthday.

Her life was marked by her resilience in the face of loss, determination, and devotion to her family. She was born in Lockport in 1923, grew up on a farm in Warrens Corners and graduated from Niagara Falls High School in 1941. After moving to Lewiston with her family, she met and married Matt Toohey, with whom she had six children, four of whom survive her. Tragically, her husband died in 1973; however, despite this tragedy,

she delighted in witnessing her family – and especially her grandchildren – grow and thrive in the years ahead.

She retired as a deputy county clerk in charge of the Niagara Falls office of the Department of Motor Vehicles. As an elected official, she first served as a Lewiston village trustee and then, for 17 years as village mayor. Her tenure as mayor was marked by two transformative projects, the initial Center Street “streetscape” and a waterfront redevelopment project, that together helped lead Lewiston to become the vibrant commu-

nity of today. The park at the Red Brick School in Lewiston bears her name. She was a past chair of the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency and was active in the New York State Conference of Mayors.

She was predeceased by her daughters, Maureen and Colleen Porter (Rolfe); and is survived by her sons: Brian (Lisa Monahan), Tim (Margy), Dennis (MJ) and Kevin (Wendy); as well as 18 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Her life and her love for them remains an extraordinary inspiration and blessing.

The family wishes to express

its deep appreciation to the dedicated personal care aides who so lovingly cared for her in her final years, and to Niagara Hospice for their compassionate care and support.

The family will be present at the Hardison Funeral Homes Inc. at North Fourth and Ridge streets in Lewiston on Saturday, July 8, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., with a service to follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Niagara Hospice at [www.niagarahospice.org](http://www.niagarahospice.org). Please visit [www.hardisonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.hardisonfuneralhomes.com).

### IN THE NEWS

#### HART to open Sirianni Education Center

The Dr. Joyce E. Sirianni Education Center is officially opening Tuesday, July 11.

Officials said the Education

Center, located in the Home Assistance Referral Team office at 505 Cayuga St., Lewiston, was made possible by the generosity of Dr. Joyce E. Sirianni, a longtime supporter of HART.

“The center is a resource for

information regarding numerous health issues facing the aging population,” a press release noted. “Doctors enrolled in the residency program at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center will be on hand a few days a month to answer questions, present on various topics, and more.”

The site will be open from 1-3 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning July 11.

A doctor from the residency program at Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center will be on site Tuesday, July 25.

The press release added, “Stop in and see what it is all about. We appreciate your feedback as we continue to work to meet the needs of the community. The center is free and open to the public.”

HART is a referral service that connects seniors and others with qualified care, allowing them to remain independent in their own homes. HART has been serving individuals and families in Niagara County and portions of Erie County for more than 40 years. For more information, call 716-754-8313 or visit [www.hartprogram.org](http://www.hartprogram.org).

(MRN) hosted its annual educational summit at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in Niagara Falls from Friday, June 23, through Monday, June 26. The event allows veterans to connect with reunion planners, as well as destination and hotel partners, to create connections and develop planning tools.

This year, the event attracted 77 attendees representing 39 different military reunion groups, as well as 45 suppliers. The Summit began with a familiarization tour within the destination on Friday, introducing the attendees and planners to the unique and varied attractions within Niagara County. They started their day at the Cave of the Winds attraction within Niagara Falls State Park, followed by the Niagara Aerospace Museum and Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum before touring the Buffalo Naval Park.

Following Friday’s activities, the group participated in two days of meetings and then a smaller group of 14 people representing five reunions planned to stay through Wednesday to explore the destination further.

“In addition to the iconic draw of Niagara Falls, we want to highlight the walkability of the destination, as well as the development of new hotel properties within the downtown Niagara Falls corridor. Both of these features are a draw

for event attendees,” said Reanna Darone, director of convention sales for Destination Niagara USA.

When asked about the experience in Niagara Falls, Sharon Danitschek of the Military Reunion Network said, “The partnership with Destination Niagara USA was perfect! The enthusiasm showed by their team for the destination, combined with attention to the smallest details, made planning the 2023 educational summit a breeze. Veterans loved their experience here, and there is no doubt Niagara Falls will be welcoming military reunions for years to come.”

Destination Niagara USA President and CEO John Percy cited the importance of welcoming meeting planners and hosting conventions in Niagara Falls.

“In 2022, Destination Niagara USA had a hand in booking and hosting 18 groups, including 6,465 attendees, resulting in an economic impact of \$8,461,900. Many people recognize the destination for leisure travel, but we have a growing demand for conventions that benefit Niagara Falls, as well.”

The mission of Destination Niagara USA is to expand the economic prosperity of the Niagara Falls USA communities by generating individual and group visitation. For more information, visit [niagarafallsusa.com](http://niagarafallsusa.com).

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#### Niagara Falls USA hosts Military Reunion Network

Submitted by Destination Niagara USA  
The Military Reunion Network



Military Reunion network summit attendees visit the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum in North Tonawanda as part of a familiarization tour of Niagara County attractions. (Submitted)