



Mary Frances Donohoe

March 17, 2020

Mary Frances Collins (Caldwell) Donohoe died on March 17, 2020 as a result of multiple myeloma. She was born, raised and educated in Worcester, MA. After completing her B.A. degree at Mt. St. Mary College in Hookset, NH, she returned to Worcester and taught high school. She married Jacques R. Caldwell, and they had two children, Mary Jeanne and Todd. Mary Fran began her elementary teaching career in Dundalk, MD, then Stone Mountain, GA, then Wellesley, MA. After a move to Gainesville and a masters degree, she began teaching at Terwilliger Elementary, then Archer Community School, then Chester B. Shell in Hawthorne, then Prairie View, then Kimball Wiles and finally Lawton Chiles. She served as a peer teacher mentoring other teachers in both Wellesley and Gainesville. She imbued her students with her love of literature and motivated them in discovering their own innate writing talents.

After retirement, Mary Fran volunteered in the schools and at the public library. She enjoyed working out at the gym, yoga classes, going to lunch and discussing books with her friends and regularly enjoying happy hours with her fellow teachers.

She cherished her children and grandchildren and great grandchildren and made pilgrimages to see them often in California, Colorado, France and Switzerland.

Mary Fran is survived by her husband Jay, her children Mary Jeanne Cabanel of Nyon, Switzerland and Todd Caldwell (Shantell) of Breckenridge, CO, her stepsons James Donohoe (Kim) of Alamo, CA and Mike Donohoe of Deland, her brother David P. Collins (Victoria) of Corona del Mar, CA, grandchildren Audrey, J.T., Louis, Blaze, Kyle and Josh, three great grandchildren, seven nieces and three nephews, and her faithful dog Spike. She was predeceased by her brother Paul T. Collins of Sarasota.

The family is grateful for the compassionate care provided by the staff of Haven Hospice.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a Memorial Mass was delayed.

A Memorial Mass will be held Saturday, April 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at Queen of Peace Catholic Church, with Fr. Joe as celebrant.

Comments



“ I am so sorry to see that Mary Fran has died. We knew her well in the '70s when we were all "single again." How much fun we had floating down the Ichetucknee and having parties. One after another we married again, and Jay found her. I am so sorry to hear that he has lost her. Virginia (Ginny McKann) Seacrist

Virginia Seacrist - March 24, 2020 at 01:48 PM



“ Marilyn Elaine Mahon lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Donohoe



Marilyn Elaine Mahon - March 23, 2020 at 02:55 PM



“ Jay, I am so sorry to hear about Mary Frances' passing. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Pete and Pat Firmat

Peter Firmat - March 23, 2020 at 10:25 AM



“ My sincere condolences to the family. I knew MaryFran back in the 1960s when we lived in the compound at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Our husbands worked extremely long hours so we wives and children spent time on the playground and pool in the summer. She welcomed me to Gainesville in 1970. I will always remember her great laugh and smile.

Linda Block

Linda Block - March 22, 2020 at 12:23 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Frances Donohoe.



March 21, 2020 at 07:07 PM



“ Mary Fran and I met in 1978 at Shell Elementary in Hawthorne. It was my first year of teaching, and her first year of being in the classroom in Florida. We shared a deep friendship that lasted over forty years. She was an amazing teacher, and I learned so much from working with her. I am left with wonderful memories of the fun that we shared through the years. I will forever miss her sense of humor, and that great laugh of hers. I loved her dearly, and although I miss her, I am so glad that she is no longer suffering.

To her beautiful family, please know how much she loved you. Jay, you were always referred to as 'the best husband in the world' in our conversations. You certainly showed that as you cared for her during her long struggle. She expressed to me more than once, that if the roles had been reversed, she hoped that she would have been able to care for you in the same way. She appreciated everything that you did for her.

Todd and Mary Jeanne, you made your mom so very proud! She was overwhelmed by your selflessness and the love that you showed her these past couple of months. You both brought her such joy and helped to ease her pain.

Louis, JT, and Audrey, she loved you all so very much! She was so very proud of each of you, and talked about you all of the time! May you carry beautiful memories of her throughout your lives.

I'm so very sorry for your loss.



Deb Magnusson - March 20, 2020 at 10:30 AM



“ We met Mrs. Donohoe as an educator . She taught our son at Prairie View Elementary School . Our son adored her and she quickly became his favorite teacher and we loved her too. We celebrated many special moments together and we will miss her terribly . Thank you for being a part of our life as a teacher and a friend. The Collins family

clarence & Jackie. Collins - March 21, 2020 at 12:12 PM



“ So sorry Jay

dan o'connell - March 22, 2020 at 09:06 AM



“ I first met Mary Fran in the pool at Haile country club. I had just moved to Gainesville and as a retired teacher, we had a lot to talk about. I remember this gracious lady who had dedicated herself to the education of children, and the wonderful talks we had about being a teacher. I admire her courage and I hope the love and support she gave her family and friends will help all of you get through this difficult time. May her memory be a blessing.

Marcia Storch

Marcia Storch - March 20, 2020 at 08:22 AM



“ I met Mary Fran almost 20 years ago while attending 4th grade orientation for my oldest daughter. She was by far the most influential teacher she had and we were fortunate enough to have her for our son 2 years later. Over the years I have run into her at various locations and she always inquired about how our children were doing. My whole family will miss this dear sweet, dedicated woman. God Bless Mary Fran.

Jeffrey P Bleke - March 22, 2020 at 09:25 AM



“ I met Mary Fran about 3 1/2 years ago when I joined the Latte Ladies group at Haile Bistro on Monday mornings. She was a beautiful person, and I sure do miss her. Marilyn Mahon

Marilyn Elaine Mahon - March 23, 2020 at 02:58 PM