



Mary J. Shaw

May 3, 1951 - August 22, 2024

Mary Jean Shaw, daughter of the late George and Mollie Pearl Shaw, was born on her grandparent's farm in Macon, Mississippi on May 3, 1951.

Mary cherished her early farm life years. Her grandparents, the late Richard and Vinie Sanders nicknamed her "May Jean".

Mary was the great-granddaughter of a Native American Indian, the late Mollie Kirks, who was often torn between life with family on a reservation and that with the world outside of it.

Mary likewise found herself torn between different places when she, along with her older siblings and her parents, migrated away from farm life to find greater opportunities for success in the St. Louis metropolitan area.

She retired from the Hazelwood School District. Mary was employed there for 19 years as an elementary school principal. She started her career in education as a teacher at Compton Heights. She later moved on to work in the Jennings School District.

Mary attended elementary school at Holy Angels. She graduated from St. Thomas Aquinas High School in 1970. She graduated from college with a Bachelor of Arts in Education degree from Harris Stowe College in 1974.

While at Harris Stowe College she pledged the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. She later received her Master of Education degree at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1979.

Dear sister of both Georgia M. Shaw and Emmett D. Shaw who preceded her in death; dear sister of Danella P. Shaw; dear aunt to nephew Gregory Brooks

Jr. and wife Vicky Brooks; dear aunt to Taylor and Tyler Brooks; dear godmother to Melanie Turnage; dear god sister to Kristyl Johnson; dear cousin to a host of others; dear friend of many.

Mary died at home on August 22, 2024, after a lengthy battle with Parkinson's Disease.

She will be buried alongside her parents and two siblings at St. Peters Cemetery.

Success is not found only in power, position or prestige. It is discovered in truth, goodness, humility, service to others and character. Thus, Mary Jean Shaw was a successful person. The success in her life is not determined by accumulation but by contributions. Mary was honorable, honest, fair, tolerant, charitable of others and a gentle person, which in itself is a success. Those who were lucky enough to know Mary deem her friendship their good fortune. She lived decently, laughed often and cared much.

In lieu flowers...please consider a donation to

Parkinson's Association
PO Box 61420
Staten Island, NY 10306

or go to:
apdaparkinson.org

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
751 N. Jefferson St.
Florissant, MO 63031

Funeral Mass

SEP 3. 11:00 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
751 N. Jefferson St.
Florissant, MO 63031

Graveside Service

SEP 3. 1:00 PM (CT)

St. Peters Cemetery
2101 Lucas and Hunt Rd
St. Louis, MO 63121

Tribute Wall

FB

“ Francis Jean Wilson Battle lit a candle in memory of Mary J. Shaw



Francis Jean Wilson Battle - September 20, 2024 at 06:12 PM

DJ

“ Mary and I shared a portion of childhood when her family moved nextdoor to ours in Kinloch, MO. It turned out to be a fast and lasting friendship between parents and children. Mary's older sister, Georgia, and I were like twins from different parents. Coincidentally, her birthday was June 11th and mine was June 10th of the same year. We shared many of those birthdays together even into adulthood. When Mary's family moved to another part of the city and my family moved to St. Louis City, the relationships continued on and Mary and I became closer in adulthood. I remember Mary as always being studious, friendly, welcoming and having what appeared to be a perfect smile that invited one into the light that seemed to surround her. My prayer for Danella and family is that God will guide them peacefully through this time of sorrow in the days, weeks and months ahead. My sincere, heartfelt condolences. Dorothy Johnson.

Dorothy Johnson - September 02, 2024 at 03:20 PM

GJ

“ Mary and I attended Harris Teacher's College together as well as became sisters in Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority. She was well loved and respected. Condolences and prayers to the Shaw family. May God give you strength as you endure Mary's transition.

Geneva Jackson - September 02, 2024 at 02:22 PM

P(

“ Porter Family (Chicago) purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Mary J. Shaw.



Porter Family (Chicago) - September 01, 2024 at 11:55 PM

TP

“ Condolences to my cousin. Oh how my mom loved the Shaw's. My memories of my cousin was laughter. My mom and the Shaw's giggled all the time. Cousin Trenia Chi- town.

Trenia Porter - September 01, 2024 at 10:55 PM

BH

“ Mary Shaw and I were close colleagues for many years in the Hazelwood School District. A devoted, compassionate, sharing, kind individual and leader. That infectious smile and soft sweet demeanor were definitely her signature attributes. Condolences, sympathy and prayers to the entire family.

Brenda Harris - August 30, 2024 at 06:16 PM

JA

“ Sending my condolences to the entire Shaw family. Love you all. Jeannette Reid Alphin

Jeannette Reid Alphin - August 28, 2024 at 03:43 PM

LS

“ Mary Shaw was a wonderful principal to work for and learn from. I loved being a teacher at Jury Elementary because of her leadership, commitment to excellence, and unwavering support for students, staff, and families. My sincere condolences for the family. May your treasured memories help bring comfort during this difficult time.

Dr. Lisa N. Strauther

Lisa Strauther - August 28, 2024 at 08:33 AM

PA

“ I first met Mary at Northview Elementary when I was hired to fill the 5th grade position that she was leaving to become an administrator. What an honor to try to fill her shoes...I would say it was impossible! Mary had such a lasting impact on my teaching career. She made me feel like I could move mountains. What an amazing educator and person. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. Mary will always have a special place in my heart. Paula Brake

Paula - August 27, 2024 at 06:30 PM

RO

“ I remember Ms. Shaw as my first principal! A kind and generous woman!

Robert - August 27, 2024 at 06:12 PM

JH

“ Mary, was a great principal and person. She was very thoughtful, helpful and always had that beautiful smile on her face.

Judy Heuring - August 27, 2024 at 01:23 PM

RB

“ *Ms. Shaw (Mary) always had a kind word and a smile for everyone she encountered. My condolences to her familia. She was an amazing person and a wonderful educator and mentor. I will miss her.*

Rosemarie Barron - August 27, 2024 at 09:43 AM

MR

“ *I extend my sincere condolences to the Family of Ms. Mary J. Shaw in her earthly transitioning. My thoughts and prayers are with you during your journey of grief. May you find comfort in knowing that God will give you the strength needed during this difficult moment. I had the pleasure of having Ms. Shaw as my principal while being an educator/ teacher at Jury Elementary School in the Hazelwood School District. She had a smile that would permeate any room occupied and when passing by classroom doors each morning to greet teachers and students. Let the memories of your loved one give you peace and comfort to guide you through the days that lie ahead! Ms. Shaw will be greatly missed. Mrs. Julia Ragland of Florence, Alabama (formerly of Florissant, Missouri)*



Mrs. Julia Ragland - August 26, 2024 at 05:32 PM

CM

“*Mary Shaw was amazing. She was a great principal and a wonderful, generous mentor. She understood what was important to promote learning for both students and teachers. She worked hard to ensure that the people in her building, both young and old had the tools and information they needed to be the best that they could be. I learned so much from her, as I am sure so many others did as well.*



Candy McNichols

Candy McNichols - August 26, 2024 at 10:41 AM

LR

“*Mary was my principal at Cold Water School. She trusted me enough to hire me. She was a truly wonderful principal and a truly wonderful person. Mary will always hold a very special place in my heart.*

Linda Roberts - August 26, 2024 at 10:37 AM

DI

*Mary and I were on the same line when I was initiated into Sigma Gamma Rho, Sorority, Inc. with a total of twelve sisters on December 4th!
Soror Deborah Lawson*

Deborah Lawson (SGR Sorority, Inc.) - August 28, 2024 at 11:14 PM