



Mary Jean Butters

May 28, 1929 - October 9, 2024

Mary Jean Butters, 95, passed away on Tuesday, October 9, 2024 in New Mexico. She was born in Chicago, Illinois, on May 28, 1929, the daughter of Mary Grace (Nee Ashcraft) and Harry James Litterst.

She was a graduate of the Parker Senior High, Chicago, where she was a member of the National Honor Society and earned a “Letter” in the Girl’s Athletic Association. As a teenager, she served as an officer of the youth of Chicago Presbytery and attended Wilson Junior College.

As an adult, she worked feverishly for the Girl Scout movement and sat on the board of the Indian Hills Council in Binghamton, New York, overseeing three camps and approximately 8500 girls.

Secretarial work was her forte, having been employed by Allied Mills Research Division in Libertyville, IL; Mann Library at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY; and in Personnel at the Chenango County Court House, Norwich, NY, where she administered Civil Service examinations.

When she moved to Wildersville, Tennessee in 1978, she, unexpectedly, became active in politics, serving as president of the Henderson County Republican Women; and vice-president of area 7-B of the state organization. Mrs. Butters was made a Colonel Aide de Camp by Gov. Alexander in 1984, appointed to the Tennessee State Executive Committee by Gov. Sunquist,

and subsequently, elected. On Super Tuesday, 1988, she was elected delegate to the Republican National Convention in New Orleans, from the 7th Congressional District, and presumably, to be the only person to do so in the history of Henderson County.

The Tennessee Federation of Republican Women honored Mary Jean as being a "Woman of Achievement" and presented her with a medallion in the year 2000.

Mrs. Butters had been the membership chairman for the "Friends of the Library" in Lexington for many years; and was a member of the First United Methodist Church, specifically, of the Deborah Sunday School Class for over 41 years (as of 2019).

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Henry E. Butters II; a son, Mark Wellington Butters; 2 brothers, Ralph Stanton & Robert James Litterst; a sister, Karen Helena Litterst; and a sister-in-law, Ruth A. Litterst.

She is survived by a daughter, Mary Beth (Dr. Joseph) Edmiston of Rio Rancho, NM; two sons, Matthew Wade (Debra) Butters of Wildersville, TN and Malcolm Andrew Butters of Wonsocket, RI; and a sister-in-law, Ann Litterst of Suffolk, VA; two grandsons, Joshua Lee Edmiston and Mark Andrew Butters; three step-granddaughters, Amanda (Brian) Hulse, Jennifer (Dustin) Wallace, and Jing Jing Chen; several step-great grandchildren; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Funeral services will be held at 12:00 p.m. Saturday, October 26, 2024 at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. in Libertyville, IL. For those that wish to attend virtually, a livestream link will be available on the funeral home website at the time of services. Interment will follow to Lakeside Cemetery in Libertyville.

A visitation will begin at 2:00 p.m. followed by a service at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, November 2, 2024 at First United Methodist Church, 27 E. Church St. in Lexington, TN with Pastor Roger Brown officiating.

Memorials may be made to the First United Methodist Church or the Everett Horn Library in Lexington, TN. For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at www.burnettdane.com.

Previous Events

Funeral Service

OCT 26. 12:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home
120 West Park Avenue
Libertyville, IL 60048
(847) 362-3009

Visitation

NOV 2. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church
27 Church Street
Lexington, TN

Memorial Service

NOV 2. 3:00 PM (CT)

United Methodist Church
27 Church Street
Lexington, TN

Tribute Wall



“ *Burnett-Dane Funeral Home created a Live Stream in memory of Mary Jean Butters*



Burnett-Dane Funeral Home - October 10, 2024 at 12:46 PM

JM

“ *Condolences to the family. So blessed to call Mary Jean my friend. She was indeed a beautiful person. Judy Moore FUMC Lexington Tn.*

Judy Moore - October 28, 2024 at 09:03 PM

JV

“ *Julie Litterst Voeller planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Jean Butters.*

Julie Litterst Voeller - October 22, 2024 at 04:46 AM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Jean Butters.*



October 18, 2024 at 08:15 AM

AL

“ Agnes Lemley lit a candle in memory of Mary Jean Butters



Agnes Lemley - October 11, 2024 at 07:25 AM

AL

Mary Jean and I lived in the same community one 10th of a mile apart for over 40 years. We attended the same church and knew many of the same people. We saw each other often at community and church functions. Mary Jean was the force of nature! She was opinionated, strong, and most of all a dedicated friend to those she met. Her passing leaves a hole in my heart, and I will never forget her. Today I pray for her loved ones to have peace in the knowledge that she let a good life and touched so very many people.

Agnes Lemley - October 11, 2024 at 07:32 AM

KF

I've known Mary Jean for about 30 years. We first met at church and we soon found out that we had a lot in common. Her granddaughter and my daughter were best friends, she and I were both born and lived in Chicago, she and my grandmother both lived in Ithaca, New York, and so much more. When I worked in the church office, Mary Jean came in to see me a couple of times every week and we started talking about our genealogy. Anyway, she told me she was looking for some missing links in her tree. I wrote down her names and looked them up on my computer, where I easily found about 40 pages of info. She and my husband Phil were actually distantly related. To say she was excited would be an understatement and she told everyone what I had done for her, and after that she was determined to bring me a box of candy on each of my birthdays for the last 10-15 years. There was no turning it down. I'm so thankful we were able to get together last summer. I loved Mary Jean and I'm so thankful God blessed me with her love and friendship.

Karyl Fisher - October 19, 2024 at 04:12 AM