



Mary Frances (McHale) Leavitt

September 28, 1936 - June 30, 2020

Leavitt, Mary Frances (McHale)

Died peacefully at home, surrounded by family, and with a Dunkin' Donuts coffee cup on her bedside table. Mary was born to James and Veronica (Byrne) McHale in Lawrence, MA. Her first attempt at kindergarten failed miserably as she was only 4 years old and kept falling asleep. She got the hang of it the following year and from there successfully completed elementary school, St. Mary's High School and Merrimack College. To her father's complete shock and dismay, she opted out of teaching as a profession and instead, on a whim, joined the United States Air Force. It was there that Mary had the time of her life and met the love of her life, Thomas W. Leavitt. They married in 1962, and like all good Catholics of the time, had four children in the space of five years. As the children began to reach their teen years, Mary thought it would be best for all if she were to enlist in the Army National Guard (26th Yankee Division, thank you very much) – and she was right. She spent the next 23 years in a job that provided her with endless material for the stories she loved to tell and many friends that she loved as well. She and Tom were hoping to travel after she retired, but Tom died suddenly in 1998. Instead, she gave the gift of travel to her children and grandchildren, taking most of them as a group to Ireland, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico.

"Nanny" leaves behind daughters Sara Goldberg (Barry) of Newton, Martha Leavitt (Robert O'Koniewski) of Lawrence, Elizabeth Nemirovsky (Sergei) of Bedford, and son Jonathan (Nettie Gentempo) of Sumner, ME. She also leaves grandchildren Charlie and William Goldberg, Thomas and Tait O'Koniewski, Lily and Nikita Nemirovsky, Garcia and Lottie Leavitt. She was pre-deceased by her brother Jim. In order to keep those she loved safe, services will be private. Donations in lieu of flowers may be made to Cor Unum Meal Center, 118 South Broadway, Lawrence, MA 01843. Arrangements are under the direction of the John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc., 35 Merrimack Street, No. Andover, MA., www.breenfuneralhome.com.

Comments



“ I so sorry for your loss. She was quite a special lady, with a sharp wit and intelligence, She was always welcoming and warm to all and I know she will be greatly missed.
My deepest condolences to all of you.
-Mary Jo Shafer

Mary Jo Shafer - July 19, 2020 at 02:51 PM



“ So sorry for your loss. Mary was a true lady. She was responsible for me becoming interested in poetry when she gave as a child "A Child's Garden of Verses'. A tradition I have continued to pay forward through the years. May she be embraced by Thom, Aunt Vera, Uncle Jim and Jimo and may they share some Irish laughter!

Cathy Byrne Rajewski

cathy byrne rajewski - July 11, 2020 at 03:10 PM



“ Mary was a witty, savvy, inspirational, motivational individual who loved her family and cared deeply for those with whom she served.. She always enriched our experiences with great stories of adventures from the present and the past. She was a very fine lady with whom I was grateful to have known.

Lucia - July 08, 2020 at 08:31 PM



“ her enthusiasm for doing good was inspiring and quick and kind sense of humor added spice to our current events meetings. i am happy to have known her. and will miss her if we ever get to watch movies at the center again. pam bruno

pam bruno - July 04, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ Mary and Tom (my colleague at Merrimack) were friends who were intelligent, welcoming and caring. They shared a passion for social justice and for clear thinking. After Tom's passing, Mary carried on with great spirit and humor. Her home was always open for a visit and the aroma of fresh home-made donuts were irresistible.

Although I haven't seen her in recent years, I remember her fondly and offer my condolences to the Levitt children.

David Raymond

David Raymond - July 03, 2020 at 02:58 PM



“ A great person. Someone I have known for many years. I remember the YD fishing trips out of Plum Island and was with her on two YD Vet trips to Italy (my wife was one of her "smoking pals" on both trips. Shocked at her passing, as I saw her recently at COL "Butch" Welch's funeral. My wife and I are deeply saddened. Our sympathies to Mary's family.

Bill LaBrie,
BG USA (Ret.)

William R LaBrie - July 02, 2020 at 01:15 PM



“ An end of an era the passing of the fabulous Mary Leavitt who always made me laugh. She had the best sense of humor and could always spot a phony. She is part of our Academy Rd. history and will always remain in our hearts.

Love to all you Leavitt kids.
Linda Darveau
Stephen, Beth and Wendy Guerrera

Linda Darveau - July 02, 2020 at 09:41 AM



“ My dearest friend from high school on. Learned so much from her. Books, music etc. missed her so much during her army and guard service. My prayers and love to her wonderful family.

dolores collier - July 02, 2020 at 09:18 AM



“ THE BEST NATIONAL GUARD GRANDMA I’VE EVER HAD!!!! - Will Goldberg

Will Goldberg - July 02, 2020 at 12:05 AM



“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Although I didn't know her well, she was such a wonderful person to volunteer with. She loved to talk while prepping the meal. May she rest in peace.

Karen Kattar - July 01, 2020 at 07:44 PM