



## Mary McKinley

February 17, 1936 - April 27, 2022

Mary K McKinley

Born 2-17-36; Died 4-27-22

Mary K McKinley, 86, passed away on Wednesday, April 27, 2022, following a courageous battle with numerous physical ailments. She was born February, 17, 1936, to Wilbur and Florence (Keatts) Wright in Hancock County. On July 21, 1957, she married the love of her life, William E. McKinley. He preceded her in death in 2004. Mary is survived by her son, Steven of Monticello, IN, in addition to several family members, neighbors, and close friends.

Mary was a devoted wife, mother, friend, and community volunteer. Mary began volunteering with the Warren Arts and Education Foundation in the 1980's, then served as its Executive Director until her retirement in 2018. During this time, she oversaw numerous fundraisers, awards programs, musical and theatrical performances, grants, and other opportunities designed to provide youth with experiences in the arts. Included in her efforts was the annual Holiday TreeFest, an event she poured herself into year-round for 30 years.

Mary was highly active in the 4-H Program, first as a youth, then as an Adult Volunteer. She was recognized in 2022 as a 50-year 4-H Volunteer, providing support to youth and the 4-H Program primarily in Warren Township of Marion County.

She served as a director of the Marion County Fair Board, including terms as President and Treasurer. Based on her work, she was inducted into the

Indiana Association of County and District Fairs Hall of Fame in 2004.

In 2005 she was inducted into the Warren Central High School Alumni Hall of Fame. In 2019 she was awarded the Warren Township school district Lasting Impact Award. Also in 2019, the Mary McKinley Atrium was named at the Warren Performing Arts Center in her honor in recognition of her years of commitment and dedication to the students of Warren Township.

She was also highly active in the Warren Township PTA and served as a State PTA officer.

Mary was a member of Old Bethel United Methodist Church. She taught the 3-year old Sunday School class for many years.

Mary was a charter member of the American Sewing Guild, enabling her to display her excellent sewing and needlework skills. These skills earned her several top honors at the Indiana State Fair Open Class exhibitions.

In addition to sewing and needlework, her hobbies included reading, flower and vegetable gardening, and working with her dogs.

Mary and her family wish to thank Donny, Ken, Debby, Barb, Ruth and many other neighbors and friends who were there to support her over the past several years. Thanks also to Angel for the incredible care she provided to Mary over the past couple of months, in addition to the caregivers from Home Instead, allowing her to achieve her desire to stay at home.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Indiana 4-H Foundation to support 4-H Youth Leadership Programming efforts. Please make gifts in Mary's memory to the Indiana 4-H Foundation, P.O. Box 3125, Indianapolis, IN 46206, or online at [www.in4h.org](http://www.in4h.org). Include "In memory of Mary McKinley" in the gift notes.

Services will be held on Monday, May 2, at Shirley Brothers Mortuaries, 9606 East Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN, 46229. Visitation is scheduled from 10 a.m. – 12 noon, followed by the service at 12 noon. Pastors Brian Beeks and Justin Cason of the Monticello United Methodist Church will be officiating. Burial will follow the service at Glen Cove Cemetery in Knightstown.



# Cemetery Details

## Glen Cove Cemetery

8955 McCullum  
Knightstown, IN 46148

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY 2. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel  
9606 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
(317) 897-9606  
<https://shirleybrothers.com/>

## Funeral Service

MAY 2. 12:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Washington Memorial Chapel  
9606 E. Washington Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46229  
(317) 897-9606  
<https://shirleybrothers.com/>

# Tribute Wall

DN

“ I met Mary as I began the process of starting the Perry Township Education Foundation. She was running the same organization for Warren Township, and she was a wealth of information for me. Mary always made herself available and we met often. At one point we thought it would be interesting and beneficial for other Marion County school districts to have their own foundations, so we approached Lilly Endowment for funding. The result was the \$6M BELL Challenge grant, offering training for existing and start-up foundations, and a \$1M match for any foundation that could raise that much. I left Perry and went on to other things, but Mary and I remained friends. I worked more than a decade in Afghanistan for the State Department, but when I came home for a spell I would always meet Mary at the Cracker Barrel on Post Road. That was our thing. We would sit there and catch up for hours. Unfortunately, I was overseas when Mary passed, but I'm sure she knows that I miss her terribly...Dennis Norris

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**Dennis Norris** - October 04, 2024 at 03:13 PM

TF

“ The Marion County Fairgrounds purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Mary McKinley.



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**The Marion County Fairgrounds** - May 03, 2022 at 03:49 PM

SH

“ I first met Mary when I had Steven as a student at Woodview (one of the best students I ever had). She helped coach me through several grant applications (to this day when I apply for grants, I can hear her say, "No budget, no bucks.") But, I probably got to know her best during the countless hours she and Sue Switzer sat outside the Creston Auditorium during the weeks of Missoula Children's Theater. I often stayed after school, and it was always a pleasure to talk to them and admire their dedication to devoting time to enrich the lives of children. Warren Township would not be the same without her many innovations and efforts.

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**Susie Albright Highley** - May 02, 2022 at 11:40 AM

 Briana Weaver

“ I was so deeply saddened to hear of the loss of sweet Mrs. McKinley. She was a mentor to me and in many ways I looked to her as a Grandmother. I met Mrs. McKinley when I was 5 years old at the Missoula Children's Theatre production that she organized for Warren Township. She always encouraged my passion for the performing arts and really believed in me. When my own grandmother passed, she was a source of support for my family. Throughout the years, I could always count on her to be there cheering me on at talent shows and performances. I will always treasure our trip together to see the Purdue Glee Club. At Christmas, Mrs. McKinley would stop by our home to surprise my sister and I with gifts she had made. I still wear the scarf she knit for me. Mrs. McKinley touched my family irrevocably and I am so grateful to have known her. Her kindness and generosity helped to nurture in me confidence, humility, and a spirit of giving. I am so thankful she is at peace. I pray that I may carry with me her spirit of selflessness and dedication in all things I do.

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**Briana Weaver** - May 02, 2022 at 06:08 AM

EA

“ Steve, Family and Friends,  
With Christian Sympathy

*It was a blessing to have met Mary, first as Mary K. Wright when we entered 1st grade of Cumberland Grade School and following years until graduation Warren Central High School Class of 1954 and later as Mary K. McKinley as we gathered for W.C.H.S. Class of '54 Reunions and monthly luncheons.*

*Mary and I shared special moments working together on a Warren Central Alumni project until COVID-19.*

*Mary K. was one of God's most faithful servants using her God-given talents to help others.*

*Eleanor L. (Ingersoll) Adams*

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**Eleanor L. Adams** - May 01, 2022 at 04:30 PM

PP

“ Mrs. McKinley was such a wonderful, giving angel on this earth, as I'm sure you all know! I knew her through Warren Central choirs, as I was there with Steve. So sorry Steve and friends and family for your loss and grief! One less Angel on this earth.. I will see her sweet spirit again though! She was a good, faithful servant!!

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**Pamela Page** - May 01, 2022 at 02:08 PM



“ Diana Hickman lit a candle in memory of Mary McKinley



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**Diana Hickman** - April 30, 2022 at 05:57 PM

LB

“ *Leslie Babione lit a candle in memory of Mary McKinley*



Leslie Babione - April 30, 2022 at 11:00 AM

LB

“ *Mary will always hold a special place in my heart. She was a big part of my 4-H experience. From helping me pick my first rabbit to show at the fair, to cheering me on at fair and community events, to celebrating my reign as fair queen and on to being a supportive figure in my early adult years, she was a positive influence and a wonderful example of how to serve the community and lead by example. I know Mary would be proud to know I am raising 5th generation 4-H members! And, she would also be proud of me for currently serving on the Hamilton County 4-H Council where I can continue to give back to the 4-H program. Thank you, Mary, for shining your light so bright and so generously to others and for always making the best better.*

Leslie Babione - April 30, 2022 at 10:59 AM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary McKinley.*



April 29, 2022 at 07:27 PM

FF

“ From your 4-H State Staff family purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mary McKinley.



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**From your 4-H State Staff family** - April 29, 2022 at 03:08 PM

LE

“ Aunt Mary always knew what I liked as a small girl. She was always considerate and when we conversed she listened intently and asked questions that made you know that she truly cared. I always loved visits to Aunt Mary's house. We got to listen to Steven play the piano, and see the many animals raised for 4-H projects. We especially loved the rabbits.

*Having Mary Kay around was comforting since her younger brother, my father, died 19-1/2 years prior. It was an honor having her at Christmas get togethers. We will miss Aunt Mary.*

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**Laura Elliott** - April 29, 2022 at 12:40 PM

CA

“ Cathy lit a candle in memory of Mary McKinley



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**Cathy** - April 29, 2022 at 11:59 AM

AN

“ *Mary was an amazing and beautiful woman with many talents. it was an honor to know her personally. She will be missed dearly*



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**April Nowell** - April 29, 2022 at 10:11 AM

DS

*It was a blessing to work alongside Mary with the Arts and Education Foundation. She was a workaholic when it came to causes she believed in. Her energy level was amazing. So many people will miss her and I am one of them.*

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**Deanna Schreiber** - April 29, 2022 at 10:12 PM

CR

*Mary was a treasured friend. Her modesty over her accomplishments spoke volumes of who she really was. I learned much from Mary over the years and will miss her quick wit, her special stories, her gentle spirit and that twinkle in her eyes.*

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**Carolyn Reeves** - May 01, 2022 at 01:29 AM

SD

*Mary was a mentor to many of us who were involved in PTA in Warren Township. We worked together on Warren PTA Council, Marion County PTA Council and and Indiana State PTA projects. She must have gotten tired as the rest of us did, but I did not see it. She was genuinely caring and willing to guide, listen, and help those who followed her in leadership positions. Her life was dedicated to providing opportunities designed to benefit children. Thank you, Mary.*

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**Sue Dugger** - May 05, 2022 at 12:00 AM