



Mary Elizabeth Curtis

March 26, 2024

Mary Elizabeth Curtis, aged 79, of Allentown, PA, passed away peacefully surrounded by her loving family and friends on 26 March 2024. Born on September 16, 1944, in Allentown, she was the cherished daughter of William and Elizabeth Curtis. William, a well-known florist at Phoebe Flower Shop, and Elizabeth, instilled in Mary a love of music and family that she carried throughout her life. Mary was a proud alumna of Allen High School, where she discovered her passion for singing—a talent she shared in school performances and her church choir, bringing joy and uplifting the spirits of all who heard her. Her professional journey was marked by her dedication and compassion, which shone through in her various roles. From providing support at an orthodontist's office to helping families find their perfect homes in real estate, and later, sharing her impeccable sense of fashion with clients at Talbots, Mary's career was a testament to her diverse talents and her commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of others. Mary's greatest joy and proudest achievement were her family. She was a loving mother of three kids and a doting grandmother of eight. Each grandchild was the recipient of a handmade Afghan blanket knit in her last few years, a testament to Mary's love and the warmth she sought to provide them. Beyond her family, Mary's hobbies included a lifelong love of fashion, a passion for cooking that brought her family and friends together around many a delicious meal, and in her later years, knitting, which allowed her to gift pieces of her heart to those she loved. Mary was known for her outgoing nature, her incredible sense of

humor, and the deep and enduring friendships she cultivated throughout her life. Her strength, style, and the love she had for her grandchildren will be her lasting legacy. Mary's relentless strength, laughter, wisdom, and kindness will be dearly missed but never forgotten. She leaves behind a legacy of strength, love and joy that will continue to inspire all who knew her.

Mary is survived by her brother William Curtis, son Alec Bierbauer (Sharlene), daughter Kari Braido, and son Craig Bierbauer. Her legacy continues through her eight grandchildren: Nicole (Brenden), Jack, Sarah, Logan, Emma, Hannah, Nico, and Sophie; and her step-grandchildren, Peyton and Ryne. She also leaves behind a community of friends who were blessed to have known her.

A celebration of Mary's life will be held on 29 March at 11 A.M. at J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home 16th and Hamilton Sts. Allentown. A calling hour will be held on 29 March from 10 A.M. to 11 A.M. in the funeral home. The family invites you to join them in remembering Mary's vibrant spirit.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to cancer research, a cause close to Mary's heart.

Cemetery Details

Grandview Cemetery

2735 Walbert Ave.
Allentown, PA 18104

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAR 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc
1601 W Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 433-5161
info@jsburkholder.com
<https://jsburkholder.com>

Celebration of Life

MAR 29. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc
1601 W Hamilton Street
Allentown, PA 18102
(610) 433-5161
info@jsburkholder.com
<https://jsburkholder.com>

Tribute Wall



“ J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc created a Webcast in memory of Mary Elizabeth Curtis



J S Burkholder Funeral Home Inc - March 29, 2024 at 08:22 AM

SK

We were saddened to hear of Mary's passing. She was a beautiful lady. Her smile will be missed. Glad our paths crossed. She had a wonderful family, she was a great neighbor, friend and even my boss at John Monaghan. What a beautiful life lived. Prayers are with the family.

Sincerely

Sharon and Brent Kleckner

Sharon Kleckner - March 29, 2024 at 08:40 AM

CS

*My oldest friend, Mary Elizabeth Curtis. We met when we were toddlers as our parents were good friends. As Mary lived in Allentown and I outside of Allentown, we went to two different school districts, but through church work on a regional level (she from St. John's UCC and I from St. Andrew's UCC), we found that we had a deep friendship. Along with Gail Glasser Wotring (Gigi) and Bob Habel from my district (Parkland) and my first cousin Dorothy Wolf Madritch (Allen High), we all participated in many church camps. As I have lived in California since 1981, a yearly visit to Allentown, always included time with our Allentown friends of yore Mary, Gigi and Bob (Dottie lives in NC) as recently has August 2023. We will miss our dear friend Mary severely and send our deepest condolences to her wonderful family.
Carol(yn) Wolf Spanier-Ladwig and Lee Ladwig*

Carol(yn) Wolf Spanier-Ladwig - March 29, 2024 at 07:59 PM

LO

“ I first met Mary when I started working at Talbots 22 years ago. In the beginning she was a co worker and mentor, but soon she became a thoughtful and trusted friend. I can't even begin to list all the wonderful memories over the years. But some of my most cherished memories are the trips to New York, brunches at Hotel Bethlehem, birthday celebrations, and seeing Mary one last time as she and Alec passed through Nashville in December. Her memorial service (watching from afar) was beautiful, and absolutely represented and honored Mary. Her love of music, her impeccable sense of fashion, the joy she found in cooking and knitting, and even her fondness for Fireball all are part of Mary's story.

Alec, Kari and Craig, I am sad that you lost her, but just think how much better the world is because she lived!

*Love and Blessings,
Lori Osborne*

Lori Osborne - March 29, 2024 at 12:28 PM

LS

“*Mary and I first met as single mothers of young children in a group of moms that frequently got together. Post full-time retirement, Mary and I met again at Talbots where we worked per diem and established many wonderful long-lasting friendships, learned how to 'perfectly fold clothing', had an introduction to Cheryl's cookies, and made many trips to NYC.*

Over the years, Mary and I became very good friends perhaps because our lives seemed to be going in similar directions. We shared our grandchildren stories. Sports topics were often on the top of the compared list: football, soccer, rugby, gymnastics, volleybal, and unfortunately sometimes which grandchild was injured. We kept each other up-to-date on knittin, crafts, cards, the latest books read, and candy cane tootsie pops. Mary and I, even though I moved to Florida ten years ago, talked to each other at least twice a week. Her two visits to Florida included one visit to Disney...and a third visit was planned (a gift from her son ALec).

Mary Curtis was the epitome of a good friend. I am blessed and so fortunate to have known her.

Linda Schrader

Linda Schrader - March 29, 2024 at 10:04 AM

MK

“ To Mary's Family,

I was saddened by your Mother's passing. She was a strong, beautiful and loyal person. With that outgoing personality of hers, she touched many lives and will be missed by all. I have many memories of her, first as a neighbor, then as a friend, and later also as a co-worker at John Monaghan Realtors.

That was a fun time, followed by many more happy encounters at Talbots....

*Your Mom was a fighter. May she now rest in Peace!
I want express my sincere Condolences to all of you.*

*Sincerely,
Margot Kent*

Margot Kent - March 28, 2024 at 10:03 PM

JE

“ To the family of Mary Curtis - As a shopper at Talbots, I met Mary and was assisted by her often. She was such a lovely lady, full of warmth and always smiling, so kind and thoughtful. I often asked about her when I would go into the store and always kept her in my prayers each day. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her and my heart goes out to her family on this sad day. May your memories of Mary fill you with joy, knowing that she was loved by many. Be blessed. Jean Machamer

jean - March 28, 2024 at 08:10 PM

HT

“ Dear Bierbauer Children,
I am so sorry for your loss. I had two of you at Parkway Manor Elementary School. Your mother was a wonderful and gracious woman. I knew of her in high school, but we connected at Parkway Manor Elementary School when she came to speak to all our sixth graders in the complex about your time in Russia. I then visited with her many times at Talbots. May your many memories of your time with her help you through these difficult days.

With warm regards,
Hope Schlegel Thorne
Retired Teacher

Hope Thorne - March 28, 2024 at 02:19 PM

BR

“ Bre purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Elizabeth Curtis.



Bre - March 28, 2024 at 07:36 AM

PI

“ Paul Shawn Reid Chloe Isabelle purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mary Elizabeth Curtis.



Paul Shawn Reid Chloe Isabelle - March 28, 2024 at 01:55 AM

YA

“ *Your friends in PwC Partner Affairs purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Mary Elizabeth Curtis.*



Your friends in PwC Partner Affairs - March 27, 2024 at 01:22 PM

TF

“ *The Voorhies Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Mary Elizabeth Curtis.*



The Voorhies Family - March 26, 2024 at 08:50 PM