



Mary Lou Stewart

December 19, 1924 - November 11, 2016

Mary Lou Stewart

1924 - 2016 Mary Lou Hasson Stewart was born in Bakersfield December 19, 1924 to Frank and Grace Hasson and passed away peacefully on November 11, 2016. She was the second of three girls. She grew up on the (then) outskirts of Bakersfield on Fairhaven Drive. She attended Beardsley Elementary and Kern County Union High School, which became Bakersfield High School. She co-wrote the lyrics to the Alma Mater during her senior year. She graduated in 1942, six months after the US entered World War II. Mary Lou worked and volunteered for the civilian defense efforts during the war years. When the war ended she was employed by the Kern Community College District. It was here that Mary Lou met her husband to be, John Halliday Stewart, when he came to enroll after his US Army discharge. They were married June 28, 1947. Her husband attended law school at Stanford. When John graduated in 1951, Mary Lou was awarded her PHT (Put Husband Through) degree. They returned to Bakersfield to begin John's law practice. Mary Lou became a charter member of the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary (the Pink Ladies). Her two children Sandra and David were born in 1954 and 1955. In 1959, Mary Lou was widowed at age 34 when John died in a car accident. She immediately went to work for the new radio station in town: KLYD. She continued with KLYD radio and TV until 1962, at which time she went to work for the newly opened Foothill High School as their first Registrar. It was there that Mary Lou decided to become a schoolteacher. She enrolled at

Fresno State College, Bakersfield Extension. In 1968 she graduated with her teaching credential. Her children remember excellent home cooked meals that had to be cleared in time for the college students who came over to study with Mary Lou. There was always a pot of tea in the middle of the papers spread all over the kitchen table. Mary Lou began her teaching career at Beardsley School District where she was first educated. She taught fourth grade for 21 years from 1969 to 1990. She always retained fond memories of the generation of Beardsley students to whom she introduced the California Missions. After retiring, Mary Lou spent many happy hours traveling to the most beautiful places on the planet with friends and family. She kept meticulous journals and labeled all her pictures. She returned to the Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, where she volunteered for another 22 years until 2012. She was the friendly face who escorted patients to their rooms. She also became an active member of the Kern County Retired Teachers Association. Most of all she enjoyed time with her grandchildren. Each of them got a "Grandma Cruise" when graduating junior high. Mary Lou was preceded in death by her parents, her sisters Ruth and Lois Hasson, her husband John H. (Jack) Stewart, as well as many dear friends and traveling companions. She is remembered fondly by her daughter Sandy Stewart Ryan and husband Timothy, her son David Stewart, her grandchildren Joseph and wife Amanda Ryan, Marie Claire Ryan, and Matthew Ryan, and one great-grand-daughter, Hayden Isabella Ryan. The family wishes to thank Arcadia Care Home, owned by Jasmine Yatco, RN and her wonderful caregivers, especially Rose and Felly, who were so gentle, competent, and compassionate during Mary Lou's final months. A final thank-you goes to her physician, Dr. Jason Billson and to Hoffman Hospice. A memorial service will be held Monday, November 21st, 11 a.m. at Mission Family Mortuary.

Cemetery Details

Greenlawn River Blvd

3700 River Blvd
Bakersfield, CA 93305

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV 21. 11:00 AM (PT)

Mission Family Mortuary
531 California Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93304
1 (661) 323-3339
<https://missionfamilymortuary.com/>