



Mrs. Mary Nesbitt Garrison

October 19, 1941 - December 29, 2020

Mary Rella Nesbitt Garrison, age 79, died Tuesday, December 29, 2020 peacefully at her home in Blythewood, SC. She was born October 19, 1941 in El Dorado, AR into an early pioneering family. She was the daughter of Mattie Pauline Murphy and Elvie Allen Nesbitt.

She is survived by her two brothers, Warren Walker and Frankie McCurry, of El Dorado, AK; her husband of 47 years, Major Ret. Edwin Burr Garrison, formerly of Bloomington, MN; sons, Brett Douglas Folse, of Lakeland, FL, Warren Darrell Folse, of Clearwater Beach, FL, and Matthew Edwin Garrison, of Evans, GA; grandchildren, Brandon (Claudia), David, and Leah Folse, Erin, Taylor, Madeline and Mateo Garrison; and great-grandson, Brody Folse.

At age five, she moved with her mother and stepfather, Edgar D. Walker, to Bastrop, LA, where she attended high school, graduating from Bastrop High School. Upon graduation, studied three years at Louisiana Tech in Ruston, LA until her marriage to her first husband, Paul D. Folse. They moved immediately to Tampa, FL where she enrolled in the University of South Florida. Mary graduated with a degree in English and French Education in that University's Charter Class and taught high school English for eight years while in Brandon, FL. She then divorced and met a young Army Captain, Edwin Burr Garrison, and the two were married in January of 1973. That spring they moved to Fort Benning, GA, where Ed was a tactics instructor and an advisor to the Bradley Vehicle Task Force while Mary taught English to young officers at the US Army Infantry School. Later, Mary became a public and command information specialist, trainer for the US Department of Prisons, South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, and adjunct professor for teaching Media Skills at Midlands Technical College. Mary's real love was in genealogy, writing, photography, and poetry. She held editor's and writer's positions at the Frankfort Chronicle, Rock Hill Herald, and the Blythewood Chronicle. Three of the four years as managing Director at Fort Jackson, she and her staff won the Department of Defense command information's "Keith L. Ware" award for all Army installations worldwide. She also directed two successful soldier learning centers at Fort Jackson, SC. Later, after retiring from her professional career, she was engaged to do consulting work for the Hillsborough

County Clerk of Court Office in Tampa, FL. The job became a full-time job lasting over six years. She then returned to Blythewood, SC and took up her hobbies of genealogy and family history, writing, poetry, photography, and gardening. She created an English garden in their backyard where she nurtured her flowers and birds. Her writing and articles appeared in numerous contests, newspapers, marketing brochures and on business advertising.

Her real love was sharing her background and experiences with all her grandchildren.

Summer visits to Blythewood served as learning experiences in doing plays, writing poetry, and learning to photograph nature at their lake house in Blythewood on Lake Ashley. Mary enjoyed world travel, visiting unique places and civil war battlefields as well as spending time with her husband, Ed and family. Mary's college friends Beth, Jane, Jerry, and Sue were her life-long friends. Mary was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Blythewood.

The funeral service for Mrs. Garrison will be held at 11:30 o'clock, Monday, January 4th, at Shives Funeral Home, Trenholm Road Chapel, 7600 Trenholm Road Ext., Columbia, SC, with Rev. Scott Smoak officiating. Burial will follow the service in Fort Jackson National Cemetery at 1 o'clock. The family will receive friends from 3 until 5 o'clock, Sunday evening at the funeral home.

Special thanks and recognition to the Hospice Team at Prisma Health, and special nurse Laura Faile. Loved, admired, and respected, Mary will surely be missed by all.

Events

JAN 4 **Funeral Service** 11:30AM

Shives Funeral Home, Inc.
7600 Trenholm Road Extension, Columbia, SC, US, 29223

JAN 4 **Burial** 01:00PM

Fort Jackson National Cemetery
4170 Percival Road, Columbia, SC, US, 29229

JAN 17 **Receive Friends** 03:00PM - 05:00PM

Shives Funeral Home, Inc.
7600 Trenholm Road Extension, Columbia, SC, US, 29223

Comments



“ An external video has been added.



Shives Funeral Home - January 04, 2021 at 01:14 PM



“ A webcast video has been added.



Shives Funeral Home - January 04, 2021 at 12:45 PM



“ To Mary's family,
I only knew Mary for a very short time. I attended the class at Shepherd's Center where Mary participated in teaching a writing class. She was full of encouragement to those of us that had never tried writing and expressing our thoughts to anyone other than ourselves. Mary had a wonderful sense of humor and it showed. She was a special lady and I know how much you all will miss her.
I wish I had known her longer.

Jim Kelly - January 04, 2021 at 07:30 PM



“ I will forever miss you, best grandmother a girl could ask for. you had the purest heart, i wish more people like you existed. you made the world a better place and effected so many peoples lives. you will live on in our hearts, no one will forget you. fly high grammy



leah - January 04, 2021 at 04:53 PM



“ Ronnie McFarland lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Mary Nesbitt Garrison



Ronnie McFarland - January 04, 2021 at 01:35 PM



“ Ed, Brett, Warren and Matthew,
Our hearts along with yours are saddened by the loss of Mary. We know your hearts are filled with much sorrow at this time of remembrance. I am so sorry we could not make it up there for the service. We so much want to be there for you. I watched the service online. Thank you. It was so beautiful. The garden theme was so inspirational and thought provoking. I like that the musician played "In the Garden". A song written by C. Austin Miles in 1912, about Mary (Magdalene) coming face to face with the risen Lord Jesus outside his tomb and he called her by name. Well, we can celebrate that our Mary has come face to face with that same Lord who knows her by name. Mary made the world a better place. Darlene and I thank the Lord for her and Ed's long lasting friendship. We pray the arms of the Lord surround you all with comfort and peace while God's strentgh provides you with the ability to carry on. God bless you all
Ronnie & Darlene McFarland

Ronnie McFarland - January 04, 2021 at 12:58 PM



“ Paul Folse is following this tribute.

Paul Folse - January 03, 2021 at 02:08 PM



“ Ed,
So sorry, for the loss of your wife Mary. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Linda Martin



Linda Martin - January 03, 2021 at 02:01 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Nesbitt Garrison.



January 02, 2021 at 09:41 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Nesbitt Garrison.



January 01, 2021 at 05:07 PM



“ Rose Tribute was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Nesbitt Garrison.



January 01, 2021 at 11:31 AM



“ Mary was my friend and I will miss her. A lady of great intellect and excellent character, as a Shepherd's Center teacher, she was just plain ol' Mary with a warmth and caring that radiated throughout the class. Would that the world had more people like like Mary. Her passing has left a gap.

Pat Dukes - January 01, 2021 at 11:14 AM



“ Paul & Delilah Folse purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mrs. Mary Nesbitt Garrison.



Paul & Delilah Folse - January 01, 2021 at 08:52 AM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Nesbitt Garrison.



December 31, 2020 at 04:16 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Nesbitt Garrison.



December 31, 2020 at 01:41 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Nesbitt Garrison.



December 30, 2020 at 10:05 PM



“ Anyone that met Mary was sure to have felt the love she radiated through her smile and hugs. I had the privilege of calling Mary Garrison, Mom for 22 amazing years. Even after she was no longer my Mother in Law, she made it very clear she was still a Mom to me. I stood by her side as she taught me to make her son's favorite meal, cube steak. I called her for checks-ins and just to chat because hearing her voice set me at ease. She encouraged me to become a teacher and was so proud when I received my Masters. I know as a teacher she touched the hearts of her students, because that is just what Mary did.

While distance has kept us apart for the past 15 years, we were never far from each other's hearts. My deepest sympathies to her grandchildren because she loved you all so much and you deserved more time with this doting grandmother. My thoughts and prayers of comfort to her husband, sons, and remaining family, as she left us too soon. One thing I take comfort in is knowing just how much she loved me because she always told me so. I know I will see her again in Heaven, more than likely surrounded by her many pets and loved ones that welcomed her home. Thank you for all the years of love Mom. I will do my best to share it just like you.

Ella Cook Elliott - December 30, 2020 at 09:49 PM



“ Great lady, always with a smile. Prayers to Ed and family.

Warren Benson - December 31, 2020 at 12:59 AM



“ Ed, I understand your grief and offer my condolences. Even though I did not know Mary well, I do know she filled your life for many years and I know your faith will get you through. Hold on to the wonderful memories and let God comfort you through them. Love and peace to you and your family.

Polly Williams - December 31, 2020 at 01:29 PM



“ Ed, I was saddened to learn of your tremendous loss. Although I did not know her well, when I saw the two of you together, the love you both had for each other overflowed. Please know that you and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Xavier Starkes - December 31, 2020 at 07:14 PM



“ Ed. Please accept my deepest condolence for your loss. May the Lord give you and your family peace in the knowledge that she loved you all. My prayers and thoughts are with you during this time.

Timothy Davis - December 31, 2020 at 08:02 PM



“ Ed, I'm so sorry to hear about Mary. I've been privileged to know you from our time in VN. Then I was lucky enough to meet Mary at the reunions. Prayers to you from Tina and me.

Don and Tina Bowers

Don Bowers - December 31, 2020 at 09:23 PM