



Mary Frances Neely

November 11, 1959 - April 30, 2020

Mary Frances Neely was born on Wednesday November 11, 1959 at the Naval Hospital in San Diego, California. There was a parade that day. On her birthday for many years, Mary Frances was told that the parade was for her. Her father, James Calhoun, had a wry sense of humor that he passed down to Mary Frances. Once her father's service in the U.S. Navy concluded, the family moved back home to Vidalia, Georgia.

Mary Frances' mother, Dorothy Mosley Calhoun ensured that Mary Frances excelled in school. Mary Frances graduated with honors from Vidalia High School in 1977, matriculated at Georgia Southern University, and didn't look up from her books until she had earned, not one, but two doctorate degrees.

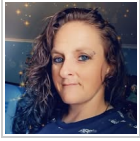
For most of her career, Mary Frances was a Teacher, retiring from the Clayton County, Georgia School District. Before joining the faculty at Lakeridge Elementary school, Mary Frances spent several years living in Ohio and working as a Social Worker.

Mary Frances loved to travel, especially in the North Georgia mountains. Her favorite vacation hideaway was a cabin overlooking the rushing waters of the Ellijay River. She enjoyed visiting wineries, antique malls, local festivals, and Book Club meetings.

Mary Frances Neely is survived by her mother, Dorothy Calhoun of Vidalia, Georgia, her husband and partner of seventeen wonderful years, Daniel Hudson of College Park, Georgia, her daughter, Mary Allison Stephens of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, and her sister, Debbie Thornton of Dallas, Texas.

Known for her wit, and for being the life of every party she threw or attended, Mary Frances will be forever loved and missed by her treasured family and friends.

Tribute Wall



“ *When I was in foster care as a child She way worked in ohio. She made such an impact on my life. I was 17 and pregnant and had noone to turn. She never gave up on me once! For that I'm forever grateful!! You will always be missed*

Tabitha Cehrs - January 24 at 04:17 PM

DE

“ My sister was unique. She could sing anything, very musically talented. artistic, creative, and full of energy. She was born in La Mesa California at Grossmont Hospital. I remember the day she was born quite well. It was a planned birth and I knew I would stay with a lady next door and dad would come for me that evening.. sat waiting in the ladies front yard where I could see our driveway looking for Dads car. The lady had no toys to play with and I guess I didn't think to take anything with me as I was just next door. So dad comes home and tells me I have a little sister named Mary. Well where is she? it would be a couple of days before I got to see her and mom but i was happy to have them home. Could not wait for her to grow a bit so we could play together. Now there are things I would like to share with you about my sister. As I mentioned she could sing.. She sang in choirs and singing groups in her college years. She and the group made recordings and sang around the area often. Later she married and sang with a different group who made a few albums. and were well known. She also sang with a community choir Her voice was powerful. She played piano and flute. Before her daughter was born she went back to get a specialist in education degree in special ed. She was working special ed in Soperton at the time. I went to her classroom a few times and was amazed at what a great teacher she was. I had never seen her in the classroom before. Wow.. she had a class by herself most of the time and if she had an aid she was grateful. She showed love and patience to the kids and they adored her. Always singing to them. Always reading books or telling stories. She had their full attention. Later after moving to Ohio she worked as a social worker. I heard from some that worked with her that she was excellent in her job. I don't doubt it. Then moving to Jonesboro Ga she was back in the classroom. Times had changed and kids were more difficult to deal with, however she put everything she had into it. Mary was funny, outspoken, had presence, you always knew when she was in the room. intelligent, determined and beautiful. When you think of ,my sister think of a lady who was a daughter, sister, mother, wife, aunt and great aunt, a



niece and cousin. She was loved by all of us as well as many friends. Then smile. That is what Mary would want us all to do. I can hear her bursting in to song just walking through a parking lot or in a store. Grinning from ear to ear because she knew what she was singing and the place she was singing might not be the norm but it sure was fun. Sing on little sister. I know you found Dad and enjoying having coffee with him.

Debbi - May 06, 2020 at 02:19 PM

JB

“ *Jayne Bennett lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely*



Jayne Bennett - May 03, 2020 at 01:30 PM

SS

“ *Sharlyon Deen Sikes*



Sharlyon Sikes - May 02, 2020 at 02:00 PM

DS

“ *Diane Pittman Stripling lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely*



Diane Pittman Stripling - May 02, 2020 at 01:12 PM

SP

“ *Sherry Palmese lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely*



Sherry Palmese - May 02, 2020 at 11:17 AM

TT

“ *Trent H. Thompson lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely*




Trent H. Thompson - May 02, 2020 at 09:11 AM

MJ

“ *Mrs. Neely was a sweet friend of mine. She was always nice and helpful to me. We worked together two years at Lake Ridge elementary school.*

Michael A. Jackson - May 02, 2020 at 12:50 AM


Jessica Guzman

“ *Jessica Guzman lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely*



Jessica Guzman - May 01, 2020 at 11:53 PM

SF

“ My deepest most heartfelt sympathies to the family. I worked with Mary Frances in Ohio at Children Service’s and we became friends. She made hard days bearable.. She was so funny and kind and always brought a smile to my face . She will be sadly missed. 💔

Stevie Ferlino - May 01, 2020 at 10:23 PM

CK

“ I remember when Dan brought her home to meet his mother. He brought her through the usual entrance past Savvy (the huge beautiful poodle--almost big enough to be a Royal, Cleo always said) directly into the kitchen. I was there. Dan said, "This is Mary Frances."
Cleo and I were pleased. Savvy was curious, interested, made no objection.

*MF was irreverent, quirky and outspoken--and we loved her.
'See you on the other side, Sweet Woman. . .*

Charles Knott - May 01, 2020 at 10:22 PM

BC

“ Condolences to the family she will be missed 🙏🙏🙏🙏

Barbara Creech - May 01, 2020 at 09:44 PM

PJ

“ To the Family you'll have my deepest condolences. The Class Of 1977 lost another warrior, that's gone on home to Rest with the Almighty. But we know that Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't Heal. RIP MARY.



Patricia Jones - May 01, 2020 at 09:29 PM

JM

“ Thinking of you and your family. So glad I got to know Mary Francis through you. Only wish I had had the chance to do so in person. You know how much I love you. Jennifer

JENNIFER GREENE MERCER - May 01, 2020 at 09:14 PM

MB

“ Margaret Broesche lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely



Margaret Broesche - May 01, 2020 at 09:07 PM

MB

“ My sincere condolences to all the family and friends of Mary Frances. I worked at Lake Ridge Elementary years ago with her and went to a couple of great Kentucky Derby parties in Jonesboro. I called her Neely and can say she always was a “ Tell it like it is straight up and no beating around the bush person!” I thought the world of her and I’m heartbroken. She may be gone but I will never forget her!

Margaret Broesche - May 01, 2020 at 09:05 PM

EM

“ Emily Martin lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely



Emily Martin - May 01, 2020 at 08:00 PM

JG

“ I worked with Mary Frances in Ohio. She was bold, tenacious and had the best sense of humor. She constantly had all of us laughing. I will never forget her and so glad we reconnected on Facebook a few years back. Mary Frances you will be missed and I know you left your mark on this world and the children you have worked with.
❤️

Jen McElhaney Galanis - May 01, 2020 at 07:41 PM



“ Duane Coleman lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely



Duane Coleman - May 01, 2020 at 05:55 PM

AC

“ I worked with Mary Frances as a social worker in Ohio. She was like a mother to me and someone I knew I could go to for advice and she would give me a straight answer!!! She made a true impact on me not only in my career but in my life!!! I truly miss her!!!

Amy Creaturo-Moore - May 01, 2020 at 05:40 PM

AH

“ My prayers are with all of Neely's family.



Ameesah Hatch - May 01, 2020 at 04:57 PM

CM

I worked with her in Ohio. She was a lovely caring person. Prayers of comfort to her family.

Candace Miles - May 01, 2020 at 06:21 PM

MH

“ *Monica Harden lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely*



Monica Harden - May 01, 2020 at 04:48 PM

SK

“ *Susan Kenny lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely*



Susan Kenny - May 01, 2020 at 09:45 AM

JT

“ *Jeff Tatum lit a candle in memory of Mary Frances Neely*



Jeff Tatum - May 01, 2020 at 07:07 AM