



Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton

January 9, 2021

Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton, 81, passed peacefully in her home on Saturday, January 9, 2021, and went home to God's glorious Kingdom. She was preceded in death by her loving husband of 20 years, Laurent (Larry) N. Horne in July 2019. Born in Lancaster, Mary was the beloved daughter of H. Harold and Katharine (Kitty) Sheaffer.

Mary was a true pioneer, having started H.D.J. Company at an incredibly young age in 1960. The company designed and manufactured precision machine parts. Mary expanded and developed the company through the years, eventually focusing operations on manufacturing highly specialized medical devices and implants. Mary worked extremely hard, continually innovating, improving, and growing a world class business. H.D.J. over time transformed into Specialized Medical Devices and Implants. Mary sold her successful business to an international corporation and formed her most recent company, M.D.I. in 2012 with her son, Edward. Mary continued to be actively involved in the company through 2018. She was a devoted and admired employer to many, respected and loved by many long-time trusted employees and considered a leader and guru in the industry by her colleagues. In the 1990's, Mary was recognized as one of the 50 most influential people of the Medical Device and Diagnostic Industry. Mary was awarded the Golden Micrometer Award in 2008, the highest lifetime achievement award from The Precision Machined Products Association of America.

As enterprising as Mary was in her business endeavors, she was equally active and energetic with her community and social pursuits. Mary was known as a fabulous hostess for her many events for charities and friends at her beloved home Buttonwood. She brought amazing style, glamour, and excitement to all her efforts. She had a great appreciation for flowers and created beautiful grounds she loved to share with others. Her patio parties surrounded by her stunning gardens topped off with Larry's magnificent fireworks, made for many special memories with friends and family, near and far. People loved basking in Mary's generous and warm spirit and Mary was a true and loving friend to many.

Mary was passionate about music and the arts, and the Lancaster community, of which she was a lifelong resident. Mary led and served on many boards and committees for organizations including The Demuth Foundation/Lancaster Museum of Art, The Fulton Theatre, The Lancaster Symphony Orchestra, Woodward Hill Cemetery, Historic Rock Ford, The Long Home, The North Museum, Milagro House, The Lancaster General Health Foundation, Lancaster General Healing Arts Commission, YMCA, Boys and Girls Club of Lancaster, Lancaster Farmland Trust, Lancaster History, Lancaster Summer Arts Festival, Hourglass Foundation, Opera Lancaster, Lancaster International Piano Festival, Pennsylvania Academy of Music, and many Music In the Home events which she and the "Salon Gang" so enjoyed. Mary made generous contributions in time, energy, and hard work to the organizations that meant so much to her, and all were the better for it.

Mary loved to travel with her family to Sea Island, GA; Bethany Beach, DE; and Los Angeles, CA. Mary was a member of Historic Saint Mary's Church, The Hamilton Club, Lancaster Country Club, Bent Creek Country Club, Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames, and The Junior League of Lancaster. Mary attended Sacred Heart School, Lancaster Country Day School, and Franklin and Marshall College.

Mary is survived by her children Elizabeth Duffy Johnson, Lititz; Mary Burton (James) Mays of Los Angeles, CA; and Edward (Heidi) Burton, Lancaster; her cherished grandchildren James, Michael, and Dr. Katharine (Katie) Burton, Christi and Taylor Johnson (son-in-law Don), Dr. Amanda Mays, Savannah (Austin) Smucker, Bethany and Tyler Burton, and her adored great-grandchildren, Addison and Easton Smucker. In addition to Larry, Mary was preceded in death by her prior husband Edward L. Burton, her sons Harold S. (Cindy) Burton, John S. Burton, and her sister Barbara D. Sheaffer Atlee.

Family and friends are invited to a Mass of Christian Burial on Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. at Historic St. Mary's Catholic Church, 119 S. Prince St., Lancaster with Rev. Brian T.C. Olkowski officiating. Attendees are asked to follow CDC and PA guidelines by wearing a mask and socially distancing. A private interment will be held at Woodward Hill Cemetery, Lancaster. The family looks forward to having a Memorial Celebration at a time when it is safer for everyone to come together.

Memorial contributions in Mary's name can be sent to The Fulton Theatre, 12 N. Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, Demuth Foundation/Lancaster Museum of Art, 116 E. King Street, Lancaster, PA 17602 or Woodward Hill Cemetery, P.O. Box 7989, Lancaster, PA 17604.

Livestream is being handled by the Church. You can watch by going to their website or

their Facebook page and click on livestream at 4:30 pm. <http://stmaryslancaster.org>

Events

JAN **Memorial Mass** 04:30PM

19

Historic St. Mary's Catholic Church
119 South Prince Street, Lancaster, PA, US

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



The Groffs Family Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. - January 18 at 12:36 PM



“ European Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton.



January 26 at 06:56 PM



“ Dee Miller lit a candle in memory of Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton



Dee Miller - January 19 at 09:06 AM



“ I worked for Mary in the 1970's. She was great to work for. She would let me miss some work so I could participate in a singing group at my church, that met during the day. Also, in recent years, I was honored to go to several of her parties. She gave them to support OperaLancaster. They were fantastic!
I am so sorry for your loss.
With sympathy,
Kay Kneisley

Kay Kneisley - January 18 at 06:51 PM



“ Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton.



January 18 at 06:01 PM



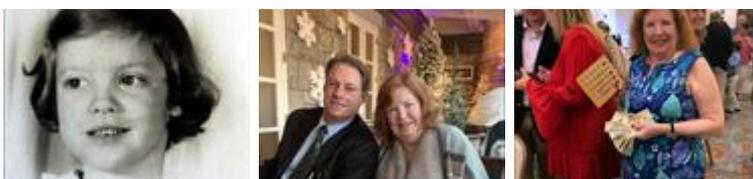
“ 26 files added to the album LifeTributes



The Groff's Family Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. - January 18 at 12:36 PM



“ 19 files added to the album LifeTributes



The Groff's Family Funeral & Cremation Services Inc. - January 18 at 10:36 AM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton.



January 17 at 10:46 AM



“ Mary Snyder lit a candle in memory of Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton



Mary Snyder - January 15 at 09:49 PM



“ The Letavic family sends thoughts and prayers to the Burton family.

Michelle Letavic - January 17 at 01:11 PM



“ Mary was my cousin, and I note her passing with sadness. In my teen years we were close. She was three years my senior, and for me she lit the way. When I found life difficult, she was encouraging, and that I have always appreciate. To her family I send my condolences and prayers.

Michael Lynch - January 15 at 06:13 PM



“ Mary was an amazing woman and friend to many. At age eight she was selling cookies to the Ladies at the Long Home and continued her support of the residents to this day. She gave of herself to her community in so many ways. Her love for others showed in so many ways to all of her friends. Her life was a blessing to her family and friends and she will be Greatly Missed.

Ernie Simmons

Ernie Simmons - January 15 at 05:18 PM



“ My heart breaks for your family. Mary was such a wonderful lady, so kind and generous. At true pioneer and inspiration to all women in business. God bless. Lyn D

lyn drinane - January 15 at 10:21 AM



“ I speak for every member of my family when I say that knowing Mary was a heartfelt delight. My seven siblings and I grew up with her children and enjoyed her charm which carried a sense of humor, energy and sparkle uniquely her own. Recently I had the great pleasure of working with Mary to raise funds for one of her favorite charities. I'm so very grateful for the opportunity to have collaborated with her again. Mary was a great friend to all of us.

William Hager

William H. Hager - January 14 at 07:37 PM



“ Christina Henderson lit a candle in memory of Mary Duffy Sheaffer Burton



Christina Henderson - January 14 at 06:29 PM



“ Love this lady. I'll share a fun time we had together we were downtown having dinner and it started to rain of course none of us had an umbrella and we thought we should skip to the parking lot in the rain and we did not a pretty sight but we laughed whole time getting to the cars.

Enjoyed many fun times at the beach house in Bethany. She had a great spirit and a very giving spirit she will be missed I am sure

Eileen Doherty Charles

Eileen Doherty Charles - January 14 at 05:10 PM



“ Our deepest condolences
from Kenny, KJ, Kerek & Koby Myers & Suzanne Myers

Kenny Myers - January 14 at 10:51 AM



“ Duffy and family, what a dynamic woman you had the privilege of knowing! Mary was wise, witty and oh so stylish. While serving with her on the Symphony board, I admired how she always delivered her weighty words in the sweetest voice. One of my favorite evenings was her stint with Bob Fenninger as guest bartenders at the Hamilton Club, to raise money for the Symphony. She was in her social element! And her grand parties at home--what a gracious hostess. I was amazed at her calm and confidence in Larry when it came time for fireworks. She was a generous and powerful influence on so many of Lancaster's finest organizations. I remember her at the Assembly in 2019, when she was wearing a beautiful rose-colored gown. She looked smashing, as always. Peace and comfort to you all. --Jill Brown

Jill Brown - January 14 at 10:12 AM



“ It was with sadness that I read about Mary's passing. My many wonderful memories of Mary include the most beautiful smile and warm embrace as she greeted you. There were conversations about her family about whom it was evident she loved so very much. Mary and I shared a common passion for flower gardening. That was evident when she so proudly walked my husband and I around the outside of her home talking about every shrub, tree and flower. Her warmth and beauty were also evident inside her home which radiated the beauty of Mary and love of flowers and color. I count it a blessing to have known Mary. My prayers and deepest sympathies are with all of her family. Yvonne Enck

Yvonne Enck - January 14 at 11:02 AM