



## Mary Dean Byard

March 31, 1932 - April 1, 2021

Mary Bernadine “Dean” Byard passed peacefully in her home in Topeka, Kansas, April 1, 2021, at the age of 89.

Mary Dean was born to Leo Earl Connor and Bernadine Marie (Manley) Connor on March 31, 1932, in Kansas City, Mo. She was raised in the Kansas City areas in Missouri and Kansas and was a lifelong Catholic. She attended St. Peter's Grade School and Bishop Ward High School. She married her soulmate, G. Barney Byard on June 20, 1953, moved to Topeka and they raised five children together. She devoted her life to her kids and her husband, attending many business trips in fun locations with him and making longtime friends throughout that time.

Although a busy mom of five, Mary Dean managed to be involved in her daughters' Girl Scout troops and was a Junior Great Books Program leader in her kids' school. Barney and Mary Dean were founding members of Most Pure Heart of Mary Church in Topeka. She served as a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister in the church.

After her kids were grown, she worked as a realtor, in a boutique, and eventually ended up employed by the Shawnee County Judicial District, first as the Jury Coordinator and later as the Administrative Assistant to the Administrative Judge. After she retired, she volunteered at Every Woman's Resource Center, The Mulvane Art Center, and in the St. Francis Hospital gift shop.

Mary Dean was an avid reader, loved to quilt, sew, knit, crochet and golf. She was a crossword puzzle master, completing the most complex puzzles in pen. She was very proud of her Irish heritage. She and her sisters would sing Irish and other old songs in perfect harmony.

Mary Dean was preceded in death by her husband in 2016 and her sister, Joanne Connor.

She is survived by her son Barney Byard (Linda Cunningham); and daughters, Dee Poe,

Cheri Byard (Larry Edgington), Donna Gragson (John) and Barb Andres (Kent); 13 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and one on the way. She is also survived by her sisters, Carol Cummings, Pat Pound, Jeanne Johnson (Larry), sister-in-law, Rosemary Byard, and many cousins, nieces, nephews and grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

The rosary will be prayed at 5 p.m. Friday, April 9, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where visitation will follow until 7 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Saturday at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church. Burial will be in Mount Calvary Cemetery. Masks and social distancing are required. Mary Dean's Mass will be live streamed on the funeral home Facebook page.

Memorial contributions may be made to Midland Care Connections and sent in care of the funeral home.

# Cemetery

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## Mount Calvary Cemetery

801 SW Westchester Rd  
Topeka, KS, 66606

# Events

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**APR** **Rosary** 05:00PM

**9**

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Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS, US, 66614

**APR** **Visitation** 05:30PM - 07:00PM

**9**

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Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home  
2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka, KS, US, 66614

**APR** **Mass of Christian Burial** 10:00AM

**10**

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Most Pure Heart of Mary Church  
3601 SW 17th Street, Topeka, KS, US, 66604

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - April 08 at 04:07 PM



“ Beautiful. Thank you.

**Dee** - April 08 at 07:30 PM



“ Perfect! Thanks so much!

**Cheri Byard** - April 09 at 12:55 PM



“ Just lovely....

**Susan Swalwell** - April 10 at 10:42 AM

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“ A webcast video has been added.



**Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home** - April 08 at 04:07 PM

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“ Kathleen Urbom and family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



**Kathleen Urbom and family** - April 09 at 03:44 PM

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“ The Johnson Family purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



**The Johnson Family** - April 09 at 01:56 PM

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“ Mary Dean is one of the LEGENDS in our extended family, along with others in her generation, all of whom are "stars" in my childhood memories -- as if a movie. When I visited with her at my uncle Pat's memorial celebration about 26 months ago, I had a feeling it would be our last in-person visit. I made the most of it.

She was always one of the first people I'd seek out at our family gatherings, even when I was a very young child.

I aspire to touch as many lives as she did. That's living. She lives on in all of us who will feel her spiritual presence for the remainder of our days. I will do my best to remain connected with her children who are members of my generation.

All my love, light, and prayers to her family members whose daily lives -- including the hours and minutes of your days -- have been altered with her passing. Always remember, she LIVED and loved her life as she would expect of us. Love, Cathie McCain Perry (daughter of Katie Cremin McCain, who was Barney's cousin)

**Cathie McCain Perry** - April 08 at 09:17 PM



“ That's beautiful, Cathie. Thank you for sharing your wonderful memories of Mom. I guarantee we will all remain in contact, and hopefully get to be together in person again one day soon. Sending love to you from all of us.

**Dee** - April 08 at 10:24 PM



“ Thank you so very much for sharing this here, Cathie! So beautiful and it warms my heart to know her affect on you! I am with Dee on looking toward all of us getting together in person one of these days. Love to you all!

**Cheri Byard** - April 09 at 12:57 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Dee Poe - April 08 at 07:53 PM

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“ Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



April 08 at 06:34 PM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



April 08 at 06:22 PM

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“ Summer's Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



April 08 at 04:55 PM

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“ Nick Reilly, Merti Richter purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



**Nick Reilly, Merti Richter** - April 08 at 11:19 AM

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“ Bernard Z. purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



**Bernard Z.** - April 07 at 04:22 PM

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“ Kim & Bob Swain lit a candle in memory of Mary Dean Byard



**Kim & Bob Swain** - April 07 at 11:43 AM



“ Thank you so much, Kim and Bob.

**Cheri Byard** - April 07 at 12:26 PM

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“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



April 06 at 01:00 PM

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“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



April 06 at 12:53 PM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



**Jeanne Johnson** - April 06 at 12:32 PM



“ What a great photo this is, and a wonderful memory of our Connor girls weekend. luv, luv, luv.

**Dee** - April 06 at 01:40 PM



“ Such precious memories!

**Cheri Byard** - April 07 at 12:26 PM



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**Pat Pound (Sister)** - April 08 at 10:24 PM

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“ Carol & Billy Kampsen lit a candle in memory of Mary Dean Byard



Carol & Billy Kampsen - April 05 at 10:28 PM

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“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Dee Poe - April 05 at 06:14 PM

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“ Mary Dean and G. Barney are the finest couple I had the privilege of meeting when entering the insurance business some 40 years ago, I credit my continued career in the insurance business to the mentorship and leadership of individuals like Mary Dean and G Barney! They both were very gracious, friendly and fun loving - I enjoyed the many insurance industry leadership trips we traveled to. It is with a great deal of sadness to loose such wonderful people, we sure could use more Mary Dean's and G Barney Byard's these days. May God and the angels welcome you to your eternal journey - blessings and a huge THANK YOU!!! Dwight D Menke

DWIGHT MENKE - April 05 at 02:27 PM

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“ Mary Dean was a class act. Her dad was my god father and she was like an aunt to me and always made me feel welcome in her home. Well wishes and prayers to all the Connor & Byard clans. Michael Murphy

Michael Murphy - April 05 at 09:42 AM



“ I had no idea that Papa Leo was your godfather, Michael. I know Mom and Dad both loved you like you were their own son.

Cheri Byard - April 07 at 12:26 PM



“ I babysat the Byard children when I was a junior at HHS. Barney was my teacher. I always enjoyed the fun and games we played when I was at their home. Mary Dean and Barney were always kind and gracious to me.

Joan (Starr) Rossetto - April 07 at 01:16 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



April 05 at 09:01 AM



“ We extend our sympathy to all of the Connor family. I remember you!  
Gayle and Alice Vernon

gayle vernon - April 04 at 12:40 PM



“ Poise, grace and beauty. She will always hold a very special place in my heart.



Meagan Lodge - April 04 at 11:24 AM



“ Extending our prayers and sympathy to Cheri and family on the loss of their Mother/Grandmother

**Dominic A Gutiérrez Sr** - April 04 at 09:00 AM

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“ So sorry to hear of Mary Dean's passing. She was always the sweetest person to be around and so nice to everyone. Prayers are sent to the family. She can now be with Barney in heaven looking down on everyone to make sure we are all being good people.

Love

Karen & Mike Connor

**Michael J Connor** - April 03 at 08:54 PM



“ I can see her and Dad dancing, along side Dean and Leo, Aunt Jodie, and a host of other relatives!

**Cheri Byard** - April 07 at 12:26 PM

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“ 5 files added to the album Memories Album



**Dee Poe** - April 03 at 07:49 PM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



April 03 at 11:30 AM

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“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



April 03 at 09:12 AM

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“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Mary Dean Byard.



April 03 at 08:58 AM

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“ Cheri and the Byard family,  
I am very sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. I hope your memories bring you comfort.  
God Bless,  
Rick

**Rick Strecker** - April 02 at 10:06 PM



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Thank you for thinking of us, Rick!

**Cheri Byard** - April 07 at 12:26 PM

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“ She will have stars in her crown. The best of her lives on in her family, especially in the ones who cared for her in her decline. May memories comfort you at this time.  
Susan and Dan Hudgens

**Dan and Susan Hudgens** - April 02 at 08:34 PM



“ Thank you, Susan and Dan. You are such a blessing!

**Cheri Byard** - April 07 at 12:25 PM



“ So very sorry to hear of her passing, she was a very classy lady that I always enjoyed seeing. I will keep you guys in my prayers as you go through this very difficult time. Nancy Connor Holmberg

**Nancy Connor Holmberg** - April 08 at 10:06 AM