



Marie M. McKinney

May 17, 1909 - April 27, 2012

Marie McKinny passed away quietly April 27, 2012 at Brewster Place in Topeka, Kansas. Marie was born in Hoxie, Kansas and is preceded in death by her parents and brother. Marie is remembered fondly by her adopted family, Gary, Richard, Kenneth and Charles Stearns, Elizabeth Stearns Quiqq, Caroline Stearns Waldmann, Randa Ogden, the Phillips and Danaher families.

Marie accomplished what many do not and lived for over a century. A woman ahead of her time she was a successful business woman. Marie was a lifetime member of the Hoxie Historical Society and a judge for the Boxing Association of Topeka. Marie was the first woman member of the National Association of Fairs. Her position with Mid America Fairs allowed her to run and manage the fairgrounds here in Topeka, Kansas. Marie loved fair people and their world, she loved and collected clowns. Marie met many famous people in her line of work, one of the biggest honors was to become a personal friend of the famous clown, Red Skelton. Marie had many painting of clowns but the most cherished was a portrait Red Skelton drew of himself and gave to her as a gift, she held him in high regard. Marie will be missed by all of us that knew and loved her.

Memorial Service will be 4 p.m. Friday in the Chapel at Grace Episcopal Cathedral.

Tribute Wall



“ *Marie M. McKinney*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ *Marie was a wonderful lady - classy, a mentor, a friend. As a young woman in a leadership position at a fair she was always helpful and supportive to me, always welcoming with that precious smile. She impacted the lives of countless folks in the fair industry!*

Marla Calico - May 21, 2012 at 12:57 PM



“ *Marie a true friend and such a lady. She touched many of our lives with her wisdom, personality and infectious laugh and smile. She inspired us all. I DO BELIEVE she will be welcomed with open arms. Rest in peace Marie.
~Fred and Carmel*

Carmel Dyer - May 18, 2012 at 03:11 PM

NB

“ Marie was a trailblazer for all woman in the Fair Industry. She led the way in many ways as being the first woman manager of a respected and organized Fair. She was fierce in her beliefs and stood firm on the subject matters she addressed. Marie was thoughtful, kind, and extremely protective of people she considered her friends. She shared her opinions and openly led conversations and was assertive and always handled situations with the utmost of professionalism.

She was the first woman recognized in our Industry with the International Assoc. of Fairs & Expositions Hall of Fame. I consider her passing a loss of long time friend! Rest in Peace.

Norb Bartosik - May 17, 2012 at 04:34 PM

LD

“ Marie was among the first association leaders to push me to speak at the conference, not simply cover it as a journalist (back when I wrote for Amusement Business). She encouraged me and many others to grow and give back. I will always remember her for her mentoring and mothering skills. God bless you, Marie.

Linda Deckard - May 17, 2012 at 03:46 PM

MB

“ Marie had great stories to tell.Pride of Hoxie,Ks.

Mike Branaman - May 01, 2012 at 12:36 PM

SM

“ marie u will be missed by everyone we love u !

stacy metcalf - April 30, 2012 at 07:14 PM

LM

“ Marie had a smile and enjoyed sunshine on her face. She got to see several milestones. She enjoyed the simple things in life and a peaceful drifting off towards the new horizons. To the family- she will be missed as well as you visiting her bringing more smiles with you.
Lea MorganLPN @ Brewster Place

Lea MorganLPN - April 30, 2012 at 09:48 AM