



Mary Tolbert

September 28, 1931 - January 28, 2021

Mary Francis Tolbert, 89, Topeka, Kansas, passed away on January 28, 2021.

Mary was born September 28, 1931, the daughter of Ray and Ethel Pumphrey Barr. She graduated from Garnett High School in 1949. Mary attended Kansas State Teachers College on a Music Scholarship and met the love of her life, Delbert Tolbert. They were married on June 22, 1950. She ran an in-home daycare for many years. After Delbert retired, they started Delmar Painting and Wallpapering business. Mary was a member of First Baptist Church in Garnett, Chanute and Manhattan, Kansas, where she also sang in the choir at each of them. She was an avid Royals and Chief fan and artist, enjoying photography, jewelry making and watercolor painting. Mary played a mean game of jacks.

Mary was greatly loved and will be greatly missed.

Mary is survived by her children, Cynthia Gunckel (Leslie), Susan Liotta (Jim), Steven Tolbert (Gail), and Sara Rempel (Terry); grandchildren, Colin Gunckel (Liaa), Emily Manning (Troy), Allison Wagoner, Michael Liotta (Sarah), Adrienne Miller (Ryan), Sara Liotta (Jeff), Bryan Tolbert (Stephanie), Rebecca Tolbert, Eric Tolbert (Jess), Zachary Rempel and Zoe Rempel; and 12 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, siblings, Harold Barr, Virginia Alban and John Barr.

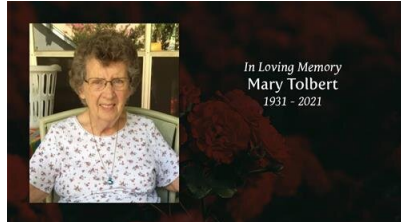
Mary's memorial service will be private but may be viewed online 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, February 3, 2021, on the Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home Facebook page.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Manhattan High School Art Department, and sent in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Tolbert*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - February 02, 2021 at 04:33 PM



“ *Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mary Tolbert*



Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home - February 02, 2021 at 03:22 PM



“ *Mary Tolbert*

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM

LG

“ I remember your Mother’s beautiful voice as your Dad played piano and Mary sang. What a wonderful pair they were. Family was everything to them.

May your happy memories sustain your family at this time.

Lois (Gjovig) Tolbert

Lois Gjovig - February 07, 2021 at 10:24 PM

SB

“ Mary and Delbert lived next door to us. They were fabulous neighbors. My husband is handy and he helped with projects at the Tolbert house. The neighborhood is not the same without them.

Shelly Broccolo - February 03, 2021 at 05:58 PM

DT

“ Our love and prayers to Mary's family. Bob & Diane Tolbert.

Diane Tolbert - February 03, 2021 at 09:07 AM

LG

“ When one marries their spouse, they may not realize they are marrying into their family as well. It's something I found out rather quickly when I married Mary's daughter Cindy. I know Mary helped raise those four kids who have turned into four amazing adults. One saying rings true to me right now, " it's not what you take when you leave this world but what you leave behind". Mary left a lot to be thankful for. Four amazing children and all her wonderful grandkids and great grandkids! I found the love of my life and have been so proud and blessed to be part of this family. I can't imagine any better group of people to call family! Thank you Mary, you will be missed but will be in our hearts forever.

Les Gunckel - February 03, 2021 at 08:00 AM

CI

Thank you, Les!! Love you!!

Cindy - February 03, 2021 at 04:15 PM

JG

“ *Mary would come to coffee at Radina's Coffee Shop in Manhattan, Ks around 8:00 to save a table for her coffee friends. She would make sure there were enough chairs, but I knew she really wanted the large round table my group was using. It was fun to catch her eye to know I would try to hurry up the conversation so Mary's group could have it. What a caring and loving person Mary was for a friend. Sincerely, Jan Gibbs*

Jan Gibbs - February 02, 2021 at 08:41 PM

TG

“ *Susan & family,*

May perpetual light shine upon her May she rest in peace.

Michael & Tracy Gamino

Tracy Gamino - January 31, 2021 at 09:01 AM

DA

“ *Mr. and Mrs. Liotta:*

On behalf of Topeka Public Schools, our sincere condolences are extended. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers as you go through this difficult time. The tremendous love and grace observed in both of you and your family members (who I met at Mrs. Liotta's retirement event) are a living legacy of Mrs. Mary Tolbert's life and impact. What a tremendous impact she had on the world and continues to have through all of you.

Take solace in your family as you reflect on positive memories with your mother. Find peace in the stories and in passing on family traditions that were important to you that your mother passed along. Be assured that your extended Topeka Public Schools family, as well as your Quincy school family, is thinking of you during this difficult time.

Again, please know my thoughts are with you. While I never met your beloved mother, I am certain by the dedication you and your family members have made to decades of educating and serving, you are a testament of the values and virtues instilled by her example. May your positive memories of your loving mother bring you healing, comfort, and solace.

*With Deepest Sympathy,
Dr. Tiffany Anderson
Superintendent of Schools
Unified School District 501*

Dr. Tiffany Anderson - January 31, 2021 at 08:13 AM

BW

“ Susan and Jim, unfortunately I never met your mom and sincerely wish I could have. Anyone who raised such a lovely person as you are, Susan, and who was a Chiefs and Royals fan and who was an artist in photography, jewelry making, and watercolor painting could certainly relate well to Jim. In addition she could wallpaper? What a Renaissance woman who could, in addition to all those talents, play jacks. You all must have loved this mother absolutely and always. You might miss her terribly but she left a legacy that will never disappear. You and your family do have my sincere sympathy and condolences. Love to you.

Bonnie Walker - January 31, 2021 at 12:39 AM

AE

To Susan and Jim Liotta, I am sending my deepest condolences for the loss of Susan's mom. She sounded like she was a very special person and will never be forgotten. My deepest sympathy for the family.

Ana Escobar - February 01, 2021 at 02:58 AM