



Mary Batts Zollicoffer

July 5, 1932 - September 11, 2024

MARY BATTS ZOLLICOFFER died September 11th 2024 after a battle with the devastating disease called Dementia. She was 92 years old and the loving mother to 4 boys, Michael, Kevin, Lowell and Bernard. She was in home hospice with Gilchrist and died peacefully at home. She was soon surrounded in peace with her boys and her good friend nurse Lizzy.

Mary was born July 5th 1932 in Edgecomb County near Tarboro, NC. She was the first child born to the union of John “Jack” Batts and Effie Ree Gorham. She attended primary and secondary school in Edgecomb County and graduated from Conetoe High School on or around 1947. After graduation she went to Winston-Salem Teachers College now known as Winston-Salem State University and graduated with a degree in Early Childhood Education and became an elementary school teacher. She loved her time at college and there she met lifelong friends and also her best friend Vivian Giles who preceded her in death. She would tell her sons about how they would sneak out the dorms and would have to pull each other back through the windows because they would stay out past curfew. She thought that was so funny. Stupid, crazy girls-she would say! But always said that was not me. I was a good girl. She remembers fondly being a Winston-Salem State alumna and attending the 50 year class reunion with Vivian Giles by her side. They thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Two good friends are now “back together again”!! Let us hope they follow the dorm rules.

Mary soon found herself in Belhaven, NC where she began teaching after graduation from college. While there she met a living legend. This man who could beat everyone in town in checkers and had graduated from A & T at the age of 17 after entering at the age of 13. He wanted to be a doctor, they say. But only wanted to attend the University of North Carolina but could not because they were not yet allowing Blacks into their institution. This brilliant man waited 10 years of his life and soon became the 4th African American to attend the medical school. Mom was there through it all and soon married the love of her life-Zolly!! She then taught elementary school in Chapel Hill, NC while her husband-Zolly, the late Dr Lawrence Zollicoffer, attended medical school. She also taught in Washington, DC while her Zolly was an intern.

She loved teaching but most of her teaching was for her 4 boys as she was a wonderful and dedicated mother and housewife most of her life. She took great pride in raising her sons as they were her heart! In fact she is known to have said on numerous occasions, "I wish my sons and I could just sit on this porch for the rest of our lives!! No work, no women, just us!" And she meant it!

After Zolly's death in 1976 of colon cancer, she worked at Fashion Bug, and then at the Carrollton Bank. She was known as a dedicated worker. She made friendships on those jobs, that carried on to her death. Later in life and until the pandemic she worked for 25 plus years with her son Michael as an administrative assistant at his medical practice. Michael would describe her as not a worker, she was just "MA, she has no title!" The patients remember "Ms Z", as she was affectionately called, as the lady that would remind us of our appointments. She loved talking to them all and they still miss her and those reminder phone calls.

Mary was an active member of Concord Baptist Church since 1976. She believed in a higher power and served the church as a "behind-the-scenes"

Parishioner. She would help with the clean-up, food prep and everyday mundane task to keep the church functioning. What may have been mundane to some was a labor of love for Mary! She believed and saw the world from a different eye. One man was not better than another no matter what position he had in life. You see, Mary and her husband were unpretentious and humble and taught their 4 boys the same! She enjoyed going on church trips also, usually with Merdis Berthau, her husband's sister. Merdis became the older sister she never had and Mary loved her dearly.

Although she never talked about it much Mary was a fighter. She battled breast cancer twice and won and also vascular disease, glaucoma and congestive heart failure. She never gave up. She was a fighter and fought the awful disease of dementia until her death! That is right. "Ms Z" was "something else" and she should inspire us all to always fight and "never give up"!! As stated earlier, she and Zolly lived by one theme, never, ever think you are better than anyone else!! BE HUMBLE!! And that is the lesson she gave her sons. One they will never forget!!

As Mary says goodbye she leaves us with one message - ALWAYS BE HUMBLE AND CARE FOR OTHERS MORE THAN YOURSELF! It is a life lesson for us all!!

She leaves her sons Michael, Kevin, Lowell and Bernard; her 2 grandchildren, Mya and Lauren; her sister, Johnnie Ree (deceased), a brother, John Batts; her beloved nieces and nephews Sylvia Lunsford (husband Lennie), Gary Joyner (wife Peaches), Frank Joyner, Reuben Joyner (wife Edna), Carlton Joyner (deceased), Alicia Joyner (deceased), Cheryl Berthau, Shelia Manley (husband Scottie), and a host of friends including a special friend and co-worker Elizabeth "Liz" Williams (we call her saint Liz), sister-in-law Merdis Berthau (who was like a sister), also her neighbor and son number 5 Grant

Martin (words could not express our thanks to him and what they meant to each other)

Previous Events

Public Viewing

SEP 27. 3:30 PM - 6:30 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Rd
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Wake

SEP 28. 1:30 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center - Randallstown
5616 Old Court Rd
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Funeral Service

SEP 28. 2:00 PM (ET)

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Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Tribute Wall



“ *Marshall-March Funeral Homes created a Webcast in memory of Mary Batts Zollicoffer*



March Life Tribute Centers - September 26, 2024 at 01:54 PM

TB

Extending my deepest heartfelt condolences to Michael and his family. A Mother may transition but all she has provided to her children will remain with them. Know that you and yours are truly blessed!

*Sincerely,
Toni Rooks -Blair Wildcats4Life!❤️*

Toni Blair - September 28, 2024 at 08:40 AM

AF

“ *Wow, this was a shock to so many. Unbelievable, yet we all must take this road one day. Mrs. Zollicoffer always been the same never changed for anyone. She was true to her words! She will truly be missed for sure. Continue to rest in paradise Queen with our King! Gone yet you will never be forgotten. Sending prayers to your loved ones. She made sure everyone was taken care of and we kept our appointments! Rest on love for we will see you again one day.*

Angela Falcon - January 19, 2025 at 07:23 PM

RM

“ Rhonda McCard lit a candle in memory of Mary Batts Zollicoffer



Rhonda McCard - November 13, 2024 at 01:11 AM

GW

“ Gloriw Webb lit a candle in memory of Mary Batts Zollicoffer



Gloriw webb - September 29, 2024 at 05:20 AM

CJ

“ We wish we could be there with you? We will always remember her smile and healthy laughter. May your memories forever keep her alive. The heart of a teacher never dies. Love, Carolyn Johnson-Cheek (Jerry)

Carolyn Johnson-Cheek - September 28, 2024 at 01:14 PM

CK

“ Words are so hard to express our sorrow for the loss of our dear cousin. My mother (Anne Gallopes) and she were so close and special to one another. I always remember the joy and laughter when they connected. They were “ sister cousins “. I know they are in heaven again in Gods arms looking over us all. With Love, Kyndell Gallopes Little and family

Cousin Kyndell - September 28, 2024 at 10:58 AM

EJ

“ Our deepest condolences to the zollicoffer Family. May her soul rest in peace. We love you Aunt Forest and we will never forget you.
From: Edna Joyner

Edna Joyner - September 28, 2024 at 04:34 AM

DM

“ Michael, Kevin Lowell and Bernard, I am sorry sorry, I didn't know, I just got the text from Lori. She was a beautiful person, just a beautiful person. God be with you. Be safe love you.

Dwight Martin - September 28, 2024 at 03:31 AM

LM

“ Momma Z has been my neighbor for 55+years. 20 years across the street and 35 years down the street. I saw her every week as I was often on her porch as a child with Lowell and Kevin playing cards or games. She would come to my events and I loved her 85 and 90th surprise birthday parties. She loved being with family and friends, her boys and my brother Grant who she called her son too. When she was driving I saw her in Betsy. We have had a lot of good laughs together. Monthly since mid Covid I dropped off food to her and she was so appreciative. She fought a good fight and now she joins her wonderful Dr. that lived on our street. We will miss her dearly but I will always hear her say Hey there Lori.

Lori Martin-Graham - September 28, 2024 at 01:23 AM

MB

“ Merdis and Cheryl Berthau purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Mary Batts Zollicoffer.



Merdis and Cheryl Berthau - September 27, 2024 at 07:18 PM

MB

“ Merdis and Cheryl Berthau planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Batts Zollicoffer.

Merdis and Cheryl Berthau - September 27, 2024 at 07:18 PM

CK

“ Please accept our deepest condolences. Mom was a say it like it is mom... She had that office in order no matter what you said lol. We are praying for you and the entire Zollicoffer family. Hold on to the memories and find comfort in the days ahead. On behalf of the Parker, Kirk Bailey, family WE LOVE US SOME YOU and are here IF and WHEN you need us!

cyndi kirk - September 27, 2024 at 01:27 PM

FF

“ From Jasmyn Berkley and Family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mary Batts Zollicoffer.



From Jasmyn Berkley and Family - September 27, 2024 at 10:59 AM

FF

“ From Jasmyn Berkley and Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Batts Zollicoffer.

From Jasmyn Berkley and Family - September 27, 2024 at 10:59 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Batts Zollicoffer.



September 27, 2024 at 10:33 AM



“ Coca Cola Team Hanover Warehouse planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Batts Zollicoffer.

Coca Cola Team Hanover Warehouse - September 26, 2024 at 12:34 PM



“ Coca Cola Team Hanover Warehouse purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mary Batts Zollicoffer.



Coca Cola Team Hanover Warehouse - September 26, 2024 at 12:34 PM



“ Sheila Zollicoffer-Manley and Scott purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Batts Zollicoffer.



Sheila Zollicoffer-Manley and Scott - September 25, 2024 at 01:01 PM

SR

“ To Michael, Kevin, Lowell, and Bernard,

You have our prayers and the hope that God will bring you peace and strength during this time of sorrow. Just remember that God is too wise to error and too kind to be unjust.

Love you,

Sam and Marie Robinson

Sam and Marie Robinson - September 24, 2024 at 07:52 PM

PB

“ Thank you so much for letting us know and we are genuinely sorry. Mary was extremely significant in our accepting our son’s diagnosis. She snapped me right out of my funk of feeling sorry for myself. It was down to earth advice that I have never forgotten. I’m so grateful for her being there.

Pat and Tom Brown - September 23, 2024 at 01:06 PM

MZ

“ Love you Grandma.



Mya Zollicoffer - September 22, 2024 at 03:55 PM

SC

“ To The Zollicoffer Family.....your friends at 3616 have our deepest of sympathy during your time of Bereavement May God comfort you ALL. We will remember Mrs. Mary as a bright light across the street who greeted us with a big smile a grace. We I'll miss her deeply. Rest in God's peace..you lived a long beautiful life. Love you... Sharon and family 🙏

Sharon Copeland - September 19, 2024 at 10:05 PM

NH

Dearest Dr Zolliffer, Please allow me to convey my deepest condolences on the passing of your precious mother Mrs Mary, to know her was to love her! She had an infectious personality to love everyone! She was so motherly and helpful always , I lost my beloved mother on Father's Day 2023, it never gets easy they were so priceless Precious and perfect!!!! Just for us their babies!!! God Bless your dear heart i know what kind of son you are and were to both of your parents!!!! That's why I love you so much!!! I'm here for you always! Nadine Williams -Holmes Tiffani's Mom and Me Me Rodrigo Diyari Baby Awesome, Drena & Zola We Love You

Nadine R Williams Holmes - September 21, 2024 at 07:51 PM

M(

“ We the March Family and Marshall-March Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always

March Life Tribute Center (Randallstown) - September 19, 2024 at 03:50 PM

JW

So sorry to hear of Mrs Mary passing. She gave me my first job, babysitting her young sons, A wonderful family, I will always remember her and her sons. Love and Prayers. Jean Walden Willoughby.

Jean walden willoughby - September 24, 2024 at 02:41 PM