



Mary M. Hedge

May 9, 1925 - July 31, 2016

Longtime Yreka resident, Mary M. Hedge-Tarnay, passed away July 31, 2016 at Fairchild Medical Center in Yreka. She was 91 years old.

Mary was born on May 9, 1925 in Butte, Montana to Arnold and Mary Borel. She was raised in Butte and graduated as an Army Nurse Cadet from St. James School of Nursing in Butte. Mary was united in marriage to Joseph F. Hedge on January 6, 1948 in Arcata. They celebrated 61 years of marriage. In addition to Butte, the family lived in Independence, Kansas, Red Bluff, Arcata, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oregon, and Bellingham, Washington, prior to moving to Yreka. Joseph passed away in Yreka in 2009. Mary married Steven A. Tarnay in Medford, Oregon on April 11, 2014.

Mary's interests seemed infinite. She was a loving mother who set high standards for herself and her five children. "Nurse Hedge" had a 40 year career before retiring from Siskiyou General Hospital. She was also a pilot and flew a biplane. She was a champion bowler, a hole-in-one golfer (with the help of a tree), a choir director and church organist for 76 years (starting at the age of 13), a natural scientist who loved fishing, an astronomer, a ship-collector, a founder of Yreka's Hospice shop, but above all, an adventurer. Mary loved to travel. She roamed across the U.S. and abroad, including a trip to Budapest, Hungary with her husband Steve in 2015. Mary was a powerful force, an inspiration for many, and a woman who, as her husband Steve says,

“got out of life as much as she could. She maxed out on everything.” We wish her Godspeed on her next adventure.

Mary is survived by her husband, Steven Tarnay of Yreka; her children, William Hedge of Sacramento, Catherine Hedge of Manhattan, Kansas, Celeste Gantz of Santa Rosa, Francie Dillon of Sacramento, Christopher Hedge of Moss Beach, and their spouses and partners; Brothers and sister: John Borel and his wife, Phyllis Bader-Borel, of Slingerlands, NY; Joan Heistuman of Eugene, Oregon; Bill Borel and his wife Danelle, of Seattle, Washington; Bob Carroll and his wife, Gail of San Diego; eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren. In addition to her husband, Joseph, Mary was preceded in death by her siblings, May Carroll in San Diego, Ann Nishio in Toronto, Canada and Eugene Borel in Gerber; and a granddaughter, Erin Mackenzie Dillon in March, 2016 in Sacramento.

A rosary will be recited on Friday, August 19, 2016 at 6:00 PM at St. Josephs Catholic Church in Yreka. A memorial mass will be said at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Yreka on Saturday, August 20, 2016 at 12:00 Noon. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to Madrone Hospice, 255 Collier Circle, Yreka, CA 96097 or go to <http://www.madronehospice.org/home/donate>.

Previous Events

Rosary

AUG **19**. 6:00 PM (PT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
314 Fourth Street
Yreka, CA 96097

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial

AUG **20**. 12:00 PM (PT)

St. Joseph Catholic Church
314 Fourth Street
Yreka, CA 96097

Tribute Wall

LJ

“ Happy memories of Mary as organist at St. Mary's church in Arcata, CA. where we sang in the choir. Love to her family. Lou and Marie Justin.

Lou & Marie Justin - August 20, 2016 at 07:36 AM

CH

Dear Lou and Marie, I wish Mom could have seen this! She loved hearing from her old friends and I remember how beautiful you sounded when you practiced at our home on Patrick Court. I'd struggle to stay awake while listening to your lovely voices. Thank you for your kind words. Cathy

Catherine Hedge - January 15, 2017 at 11:54 AM

MN

“ As many of you know, Aunt Mary was an avid scrabble player. Every time I visited her, we would play and she would always win. Naturally when I visited her, just a few weeks ago, we played. I figured that I should be able to beat a 91 year old woman, but I have the honour to be her final victim. I will miss our games, but will always be grateful for her advice and support throughout my life.

Mary Nishio - August 10, 2016 at 09:13 PM

CH

Dear Mary Lou, This made me smile! This was one of Mom's favorite last stories. I think everyone heard about your defeat! Love you, Cousin! Cathy Jean

Catherine Hedge - January 15, 2017 at 11:52 AM

BE

“ I do not know where to start. I am grateful Mary let me into her life!!!! I appreciated her honesty, and telling it like it was the most. You always knew where you stood with Mary, and if you messed up she let you know lovingly. Her laugh will forever be in my heart, as she will be also.

Beverly - August 08, 2016 at 07:27 PM

CH

You were such a dear friend, Beverly! Thank you for being there for Mom!

Catherine Hedge - January 15, 2017 at 11:51 AM

CG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Celeste Gantz - August 03, 2016 at 04:38 PM

Cj Hedge

Dear Auntie Joan, I never heard that story! Thank you so much for standing next to her all her life...through 2 weddings! Love, Cathy

Cj Hedge - August 08, 2016 at 09:53 PM



“ I remember your mom's wonderful laugh and great sense of humor. She was a hard worker and very respected when she worked at Mercy hospital. She loved her children deeply.
Mary Ann Lopez Baldassaro



Mary Baldassaro - August 03, 2016 at 04:30 PM

CG

Thank you, Mary Ann. That was very sweet. Love, Celeste

Celeste Gantz - August 03, 2016 at 04:36 PM

JH

I remember her wedding day...she was a beautiful bride but she was a tiny bit late getting there, not much, but ..Joe looked pretty stressed out. The look on his face when he saw her lighted the entire church. It was "the look of love" and it never changed through the years. The promises made that day were true and they went on to create a wonderful family. I know! I am her sister and their Aunt Joan Heistuman

Joan Heistuman - August 04, 2016 at 12:03 AM

CH

This is perfect, Auntie Joan. Thank you! Love, Cathy Jean

Catherine Hedge - January 15, 2017 at 11:50 AM

CG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Celeste Gantz - August 03, 2016 at 03:32 PM

JC

You kids have her humor, wit and, adventure. She is a beautiful lady and, I see a piece of her in each one of you. The smiling eyes, the great smile of laughter.....you have all been raised right in every way possible. Your hearts are warming, generous, passionate and caring. All of you are a force to be reckoned with in a positive way. Blessings and prayers to all of you! Hugs, Jeri Brewster-Coldwell

Jeri Coldwell - August 03, 2016 at 09:50 PM

CH

Thank you, Jeri! I was thinking about Mom so much on this cold Kansas morning and your comments warmed my heart. Catherine Hedge

Catherine Hedge - January 15, 2017 at 11:49 AM