



## Mary Rita Furlong

September 29, 1930 - April 15, 2019

Exeter – Mary Rita Furlong, 88, of Exeter and a former resident Hampton, passed away peacefully at the Portsmouth Regional Hospital on Monday, April 15, 2019.

Mary was born in Lowell, MA on September 29, 1930, the daughter of the late James E. and Helen (Douglas) Furlong.

She was raised in Lowell and graduated from Lowell High then earned her Bachelor's Degree from Boston University and upon graduation, entered the nun hood and served her God with the religious order of the Sisters of Mercy. Sister Mary Rita taught at the Sacred Heart School in Hampton for many years. She gained national attention in the early 1980s when she and three other Sisters of Mercy, Honora Reardon and Katie and Justine Colliton, settled in a suit with the Diocese of Manchester for wrongful termination of their teaching positions. Mary then worked as a bookkeeper with the former NH Helicopters until her retirement.

She and her close friends, Honora, Katie and Justine loved to travel and had visited many places around the world. Family was most important to Mary and some of the happiest times of life were spent with her brother James Furlong and his family.

Mary leaves her brother James Furlong of Chelmsford, MA, her nephew Douglas Furlong, his wife Patricia, and their children, Catherine, John and Allison of Walpole, MA.

Friends may visit from 9:30 to 10:30 AM on Tuesday, April 23, 2019 in the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 AM following the visitation at St. Michael's Church, 9 Lincoln St., Exeter. Burial will be at 1 PM in St. Patrick Cemetery, 1251 Gorham St., Lowell, MA.

# Cemetery

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## St. Patrick Cemetery

1251 Gorham Street  
Lowell, MA, 01852

# Events

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**APR 23** **Visitation** 09:30AM - 10:30AM

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Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory  
811 Lafayette Road ·, Hampton, NH, US, 03842

**APR 23** **Funeral Mass** 11:00AM

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St. Michael Church  
9 Lincoln Street, Exeter, NH, US, 03833

**APR 23** **Committal** 01:00PM

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St. Patrick Cemetery  
1251 Gorham Street, Lowell, MA, US, 01852

# Comments

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“ Sister Mary Rita was a Great Lady. Her priorities were God, Family, & her students. For 4 years I was a member of the Sacred Heart Staff and she was always there to offer a helping hand and guidance in anyway. The memories of those years will last forever.

James Biron - April 23, 2019 at 11:58 AM

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“ I write this loving memory on behalf of thousands of students who were fortunate to have Sister Mary Rita as our teacher. She set a foundation for us to go forward as caring individuals. Her message was one of compassion and perseverance. There are little things I remember as an individual, like how she patiently taught me how to hang things on the wall straight by lining them up with the bricks :-)  
She taught us to stay on the trail to preserve nature and not to litter (it used to be a thing back then!)  
One of the greatest gifts she shared, was her love and appreciation for words, especially in poetry.  
How many people memorized "The Village Blacksmith" with her?  
It is a poem that rhymes on about how work can provide joy and comfort, and a sense of accomplishment, in spite of life's inevitable challenges and tragedies.  
Another wonderful poem she had us memorize, was "September" by Helen Hunt Jackson-- I will always remember Sister Mary Rita through the images in "September."

Koreine McGee - April 22, 2019 at 01:18 AM

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“ Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mary Rita Furlong.



April 18, 2019 at 05:28 PM

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“ We have been close friends with Mary Rita since her days at Sacred Heart School in Hampton. Over the years, we have shared many good times and we always marveled at her incredible memory. Mary Rita was a wonderful friend and we kept in touch right up until two weeks before her death. She will be missed.  
Kathy and Alan Baker

**Kathy Baker** - April 18, 2019 at 05:04 PM

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“ During the late 1970's, our three children were students at SHS and were all taught by Sister Mary Rita in the fourth grade. Their experience as her students was the best. She was a great teacher, always fair and strong in her Catholic teaching. Rest In Peace, Mary Rita, with our Lord and Savior in His kingdom of heaven.  
Kathy and Bill Trotman

**Kathleen Trotman** - April 18, 2019 at 10:05 AM

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“ I met Mary at Langdon Place where I worked in the dining room. We shared many connections from Hampton. I think I was the only one there that she was a nun and that was the way she wanted it. Mary was one of my favorites. I always enjoyed our chats she was very interesting and knowledgeable. She remembered many students from Sacred Heart School as well as other clergy of that time. She was fiesty, independent and strong willed. I thought she was just great! Sincerely, Kathy Seavey

**Kathy Seavey** - April 17, 2019 at 08:24 PM