



Mary Z. Walker

June 24, 1926 - November 1, 2021

Portsmouth - With the same fierce and determined independence in which she lived her life, Mary Z. Walker, 95, passed away at home on November 1, 2021. Mary was born in Everett, Massachusetts on June 24, 1926 to Randolph Walker and Mildred (Brewer) Walker. She was the youngest of six children which included Edwin, Querida, George, Randolph, and Justina, all of whom pre-deceased Mary.

As a young woman Mary was employed by the Internal Revenue Office where she provided training and educational seminars throughout the country. Her career continued to advance and she retired after over 30 years of dedicated service. After settling in Portsmouth in the early 70s, she eventually brought her mother and aunt to Portsmouth in order to care for them.

A firm believer in doing your part for the community, Mary volunteered her time, energy, and ideas with many local organizations. Twice she was president of the Woman's City Club, and head of the Portsmouth Hospital volunteers where she took responsibility for running their gift shop (pre-HCA). She volunteered at the Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce and The Music Hall as well as serving on the Music Hall's Board of Directors. In her spare time, one of her favorite volunteer activities was reading to the children at the day-care center on Pease. She was a longtime member of the Herb Society where she made dear friends she treasured.

Mary was the first Chair of the Heritage Hill condo association when the development on Maplewood Avenue was first built. She moved there in 1984 and became one of its first residents. Mary loved watching out her window (a favorite pastime even before Covid) to see who was doing what and going where. She made many friends there over the years, some who have already passed, others who will miss her tremendously.

After retiring from the IRS, Mary decided she wanted to complete her college education. She attended Southern New Hampshire University and earned her Bachelor's degree – an accomplishment she was very proud of (as were we all!)

During her retirement, Mary spent much time traveling and exploring the world. She loved meeting new, and interesting people. Her travels took her far and wide, but favorites were Scotland, Japan, Italy, Morocco, Greece, and the Caribbean where she still had family on St. Vincent.

Mary leaves behind her niece Lauren Walker Newman (Maryland), nephews Danny Mann, Jr., George O. Walker, Christopher Mann, 9 grandnieces and nephews. She also leaves behind her most special friend “Tina” her cat, one in a long line of her feline friends which also included Joy, Annie, Mitzi, and GI Joe, all of which are with Mary now.

Mary's life will be celebrated by family and friends at 3 pm on Sunday, November 14, 2021 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 101 Chapel St., Portsmouth. Mary's favorite wish for her family, friends, and strangers, was that they always have a “positive day.” She would say it directly to you when taking her leave. It was her message on her answering machine. So in lieu of flowers, do something positive today for someone in your world in honor of Mary Z.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

NOV **14**. 3:00 PM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
101 Chapel Road
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Z. Walker*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *I can picture Mary in the Godwin Garden on a sunny morning at Strawberry Banke Museum where she volunteered for many years. She would greet me as I walked along the fence on my way to the house I was working in that day. She had a name badge that said "Master Gardener" and a big smile as she waited to help the children discover plants in the Victorian Children's Garden. So many visitors will remember her friendly greeting in that garden.....*
Pamela Robinson

Pamela Robinson - November 15, 2021 at 05:21 AM



“ *I did not know Mary well, we met as volunteers at the Music Hall. She told me of her travels and how much she enjoyed new places and meeting new people. Because of her positive attitude, she was a joy to be around.*
My sincere sympathy to her family and close friends.
DCL

Dianne - November 13, 2021 at 08:21 AM



“ *I didn't know Mary well, but consider her one of Portsmouth's treasures. Her ready smile and joyful presence was always a gift that filled even the gloomiest day with life. She will be deeply missed.*

Genevieve Aichele - November 12, 2021 at 09:28 PM

KD

“ *Mary Z was an inspiration to all. She will be greatly missed.
Condolences to her family. Kelli and Larry Day*

Kelli and Larry Day - November 12, 2021 at 08:01 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of
Mary Z. Walker.*



November 10, 2021 at 09:48 PM

JS

“ *Sorry to hear this news...i knew Mary thru Heritage Hill and the
Chamber
she was a joy to talk to....always so positive and cheerful...she was
an asset to the community...a class act
Godspeed Mary*

jeff salisbury - November 10, 2021 at 05:03 PM

DR

“ *Mary was a friend at St. John's Episcopal Church in Portsmouth.
Rita and I also knew Mary through her work with the Portsmouth
Hospital volunteers. She was active in so many ways in many
organizations...she was a one-woman energy force in the world.
True to her newspaper memoriam when we visited at her home we
always departed with her cheery and positive "have a positive day,"
and somehow that seemed enough always to make that happen.
God bless and watch over you, Mary. Dick Rozek*

Dick Rozek - November 10, 2021 at 04:15 PM

MM

“ I’ll always remember Aunt Mary as the aunt who sent greeting cards with such nice notes. She always bragged about her “doctor niece” and how proud she was of me. I still enjoy looking at family albums with my grandfather and his siblings (Aunt Mary being the youngest) and the love, joy and happiness the pictures showed. In 2016, we visited her and she met my oldest son, Caleb. She showered him with compliments and pride which made him feel so good. In the few hours he spent with her, he loved her as if he had known her all of his life. Aunt Mary had a tough exterior but such a soft, loving, and caring heart. I’ll miss her New England accent and I’ll miss getting her cards and notes in the mail. I’ll always hold on to the pride she had for me and my family. RIP Aunt Mary

Mandisa McIver - November 10, 2021 at 02:38 PM

DM

“ I met Mary when she was having her hair done by one of my coworkers. I always found her fascinating, interesting, and extremely knowledgeable! She always had a piece of sage advice for all of us. When she left our salon I thought of her many times. May God bless you Mary.

Diana Ashe Miller - November 10, 2021 at 07:22 AM

SA

“ I didn’t see mention of what the “Z” of Mary Z’s name stood for, but when I think of her the word “zest” comes to mind. Her positive outlook, her humor and warmth, her energy and her always ready smile all combine to make her stand out in my memory.

You did well, Mary Z.

RIP

Steve Alie - November 09, 2021 at 05:39 PM

JM

“ Mary Z. And I worked in the same office at the IRS many years ago. She was an extraordinary woman. Mary had a quick and dry sense of humor and a keen sense of when you might need to laugh. I have thought about Mary often over these many years. She was a kind and compassionate person.

I am saddened for her family and her friends.

Janet McSweeney - November 08, 2021 at 07:30 AM

KD

Mary Z. was an inspiration to all. She will be greatly missed. Condolences to her family. Kelli and Larry Day

Kelli and Larry Day - November 08, 2021 at 08:02 PM

SM

Mary Z volunteered for us at the Chamber in Portsmouth, and that is where I got to know this lovely woman. Smart and astute Mary always had a positive thing to say. We shared the love of felines and I knew her well when she was taking Annie to the vet every week. May she rest in peace. She did a good job here on earth! Sending love to all of you. Susan Middleton

Susan Middleton - November 10, 2021 at 10:44 AM

LC

Mary Z was a dear, dear friend. How I will miss her wit, wisdom, our lunches and our Sunday conversations. Especially about politics. As she used to say "if they only asked me." Indeed they should have. During our last conversation she thanked me for being a constant friend. No I thank you Mary Z for that honor.

- Leslye Cain

Leslye Cain - November 10, 2021 at 11:53 AM

OW

I did not know Mary Z personally, but I have heard so many wonderful things about her from her niece, Lauren, that I feel that she was a very special person. Also, her picture projects such pleasantness and warmth that I wished I had known her personally.

Rest in peace.

Sincere condolences to the family.

Ouida E. Westney

Ouida E. Westney - November 12, 2021 at 10:10 AM

PA

My husband, Jeff, me, and Mary were the last original owners at Heritage Hill. Mary moved in several months before we did, so she held the record. I recently left for Florida, but had the opportunity to visit with Mary several times before I moved in October. We reminisced and laughed over our valued memories. She was a delightful neighbor who won't be forgotten. We valued her friendship and witty humor. I will cherish our friendship always. XOXO Pam Andersen

Pam Andersen - November 13, 2021 at 09:53 AM

GB

Mary was an outstanding person. She was an asset to the different organizations in the Portsmouth area. We had many great times together and I learned to listen to Mary as she had knowledge beyond. Mary was quick witted and the first to give an opinion. Her honesty and caring nature was admired by me. I can remember selling Mary her dining room set and more when she first moved to Heritage Hill. We always joked about that as it was so many years ago. She will be dearly missed and my sincere thoughts and prayers go out to her loved ones. She was a diamond in the rough but truly stood out in a crowd!!!

Gail E. Bradbard

Gail E. Bradbard - November 14, 2021 at 05:14 PM