



Mary Frances Leitch

June 28, 1925 - September 30, 2020

Mary Frances (Greenlee) Leitch, 95, of New Castle, was born on June 28, 1925 to Claude and Ethel Greenlee. Mary passed away peacefully on September 30, 2020 at Glen Oakes Health Campus of New Castle.

Although Mary was born in Indiana, she spent most of her youth in California. One of her favorite California memories, while living near the Hollywood sign, was to watch May West pass by in her limousine on her way to Paramount Movie Studio.

During the height of WWII and following the death of her father, the family moved back to Middletown to be close to family. She graduated from Middletown High School and attended Ball State Teacher College where she graduated in 1948. She later earned a Master Degree in Education. During her college years, she worked at a soda fountain shop and a dress store.

Mary's first teaching job was at Weir School in New Castle. During that time she met fellow teacher, Richard Leitch. He was a recent Ball State graduate and a WWII Navy Veteran. He proposed to Mary by writing "Will You marry me?" on the chalk board in front of her students. They married in 1950 and celebrated 68 years together.

Mary was a "stay at home" mom until the late 1960s. During her career as an

educator she taught at Weir, Holland, Wilbur Wright and retired from Riley Elementary in 1991. She was one of the first teachers to be a part of open concept team teaching with her friend and partner, Willie Mae Sheffield. Over the years she mentored many student teachers. She enjoyed serving on Indiana State Text Book Committees for many years. She was a member of the Indiana State Teachers Association.

At the time of her death, she was the oldest member of First United Methodist Church in New Castle, and attended the church for six decades. She also served in different officer positions in service organizations including the local chapters of P.E.O. , Psi Iota Xi and Delta Kappa Gamma. She was a member of Sorosis Literary Club.

In her retirement years she enjoyed traveling with family and friends, playing bridge, reading, biking and attending theatrical plays and concerts. Her greatest joy was being Grammy to grandchildren, Lyndsey and Tyler.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Ethel Greenlee, her husband of nearly 66 years, Richard Leitch and her siblings, Oliver Daniel Greenlee, John Richard Greenlee and Margaretta Jane Drury.

Those left to cherish her memory include her two daughters, Cindy (Lynn) Perdue of New Castle and Susan Bennett of Indianapolis; grandchildren, Lyndsey (Graig) Davis of New Castle and Tyler (Jenna) Perdue of Noblesville; four great-grandchildren, Leah and Lyndon Davis of New Castle and Reid and Ross Perdue of Noblesville.

Memorial Contributions may be made to the Henry County Community Foundation or Indiana United Methodist Children's Home Foundation, 9333 N Meridian Street, Suite 222 Indianapolis, IN 46260.

Funeral services will be held at 1:00 pm, Saturday, October 3, 2020 at First United Methodist Church in New Castle with Pastor Holly Hardsaw and Pastor Cindy Upchurch officiating. Burial will follow in South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition.

Friends may call from 11 – 1 pm prior to the service at the church.

The family would like to thank the staff of Henry County Community Hospital, Forest Ridge, Henry County Hospice and Glen Oaks Health Campus.

You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Mary Leitch.

Due to the COVID-19 virus masks and social distancing will be required. With the safety of others in mind, please do not attend if you feel any symptoms of illness.

Cemetery Details

South Mound Cemetery West Lawn Addition

950 South Memorial Dr.
New Castle, IN 47362

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 3. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
1324 Church Street
New Castle, IN

Service

OCT 3. 1:00 PM (ET)

First United Methodist Church
1324 Church Street
New Castle, IN

Tribute Wall

CG

“*Mary was a humble and respected educator who nurtured countless students and families over the years. She always had a kind word, taught life lessons that still ring true today and treated all students as family. Her smile could light up any room, and we will cherish the fond memories of our time with her over the years.*”

Connie Guffey - October 04, 2020 at 01:40 PM

JM

“*I had your mom as a fourth grade teacher at Riley back in the 70's. To this day, I still remember her as one of my favorite teachers and was glad to have had the opportunity to tell her so when she attended my mom's funeral in '99. She set an incredible example of character and kindness, with a sense of humor mixed in. She certainly brought out the best in everyone she knew. I feel grateful to have known her.*”

Jennifer (Sahlberg) Martinec

Jennifer Martinec - October 04, 2020 at 12:06 PM

RR

“*My sympathy in the loss of this sweet "LADY" I remember her from Weir school, along with her husband. They were both impeccable teachers ! They showed compassion while teaching and we need more of them for sure. Prayers to her family.*”



Ron & Donna Ragan - October 03, 2020 at 09:46 PM

CE

“ Mary was such a wonderful and kind person! She always had a smile or kind words for you! I am so sorry for your family’s loss. I was unable to come to visitation because we are on our way to Gatlinburg with our grandkids. I am praying for all of you! Love your family! 🙏❤️❤️👏

cheri Estelle - October 03, 2020 at 12:21 PM

LA

“ I was a student in Mrs Leitch and Miss Sheffield's class. I think I was in the class with Susan. Looking back I'm thankful that I had the stability that I was lacking at home. I looked forward to going to school. Mrs Leitch was a awesome teacher and a better woman. God bless her family and friends.

Linda Alcorn - October 03, 2020 at 01:14 AM

AM

“ Mary was my 4th grade teacher at Riley. And she was also my mother’s teacher a generation earlier, at Weir. She was a wonderful teacher. More importantly, she was a wonderful person. I am a better person because she was in my life. Prayers for her family.

Anthony May - October 02, 2020 at 09:01 PM



“ 141 files added to the album *LifeTributes*



Sproles Family Funeral Home - October 02, 2020 at 07:31 PM

VM

“ *Our sincere sympathy in your loss of your mother, grandmother. May you be comforted by the blessings of love from a wonderful, humble, and gracious woman. Always a joy to visit with Mary, loved her humor, and her smile. Our prayers for the family, Lynn and Vance Meier*

vance meier - October 02, 2020 at 03:04 PM

JW

“ *I am so grateful for the few 'fun years' I had running around with your mom, Mary! She had a unique mind and a great sense of humor!*

Joyce Wilhelm - October 02, 2020 at 09:09 AM

MM

“ Susan and Cindy,

You are in my thoughts. I am so, so sorry to learn about your mom. When I think about growing up in New Castle, what comes to mind is the support of our folks for every endeavor in which we were involved - and that of our friends and classmates as well. Take care.

Matt

Matt Morris - October 02, 2020 at 08:28 AM

JG

“ *What an awesome lady! Thank you for mentioning Aunt Willie Mae in the obituary. She and Mary were what 'team teaching' was all about. So sorry for your loss, but so thankful for the life she led and the memories you have.*

Jeri Gooding - October 01, 2020 at 11:40 PM

AM

“ *Mary Greenlee was my 4th grade teacher in 1948. She was one of my favorite teachers. In sixth grade I was fortunate to have Richard Leitch; his first year to teach at Weir school. Mr. Leitch would occasionally write a note to Miss Greenlee and ask me to take it to her; other times it might be a coke or candy bar he would ask me to take to her. I felt honored to have this privilege. When they got married several students waited outside during their wedding and enjoyed getting to throw rice as they came from the wedding. They were both wonderful teachers and very kind and helpful to students. I remember it like it was today. I offer my condolences to the family.*
Alice Meeks

Alice Meeks - October 01, 2020 at 04:05 PM



“ *Basket Full of Wishes was purchased for the family of Mary Frances Leitch.*



October 01, 2020 at 02:27 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Frances Leitch.*



October 01, 2020 at 11:09 AM



“ *In the 1970's my husband ran for city councilman for a seat that was held by Dick Leitch. This was our first entry into the political world and was a learning experience for us both. On Election Day I was stationed outside a precinct and asking people to consider voting for Doug and being a bit of an introvert this was hard for me. As I approached a lady and asked for her consideration she smiled and sweetly replied she was married to Dick Leitch but it was really nice to meet me !! This same sweet lady later became our daughters' favorite teacher. Today Beth still has a beautiful afghan Mary made for her high school graduation. She was a role model for many. Sorry for your loss. Jennifer Kinser*

jennifer Kinser - October 01, 2020 at 10:57 AM

JJ

“ I am so sorry about the death of your mom. I know it can be a very difficult time for all of the family. I read her obituary, and I would say it was a "life well lived", for sure. Hold onto the memories, and she will always be with you. Take care, Janette Johnson

Janette Johnson - October 01, 2020 at 10:47 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Frances Leitch.



October 01, 2020 at 10:41 AM

NS

“ The members of the Ladies Missionary Society send their condolences. Mary's name will be added to the in-memory-of list with the funds given for socks for the Lebanon Children's Home this year from Buck Creek UMC.

Nancy Schnepf - October 01, 2020 at 10:37 AM

AF

“ Another Beautiful soul in heaven! Susan our thoughts and prayers for you all.

Amanda and Terry Fearnin - October 01, 2020 at 10:15 AM