



Marian Barnes Hayes

February 22, 1949 - January 19, 2020

Marian Barnes Hayes, 70, passed away January 19, 2020, while under the compassionate care of the staff at McCall Hospice House/Open Arms Hospice in Simpsonville, SC. McCall's cared for her and her caretakers, Mary Gene, Bill, Ida and Bambi as her life with cancer came to an end And what a life she had!

A Greenville County native, Marian was a daughter of the late Gene Wylie Hayes and Mary Louisa Barnes Hayes. A graduate of Greer High School and Winthrop College, she was a Special Education Teacher and Administrator in the Greenville County public school system.

She is survived by two sisters, Mary Gene Hayes of Greer and Susan Hayes of San Jose, California, brother Thomas Hayes of Niigata, Japan, devoted companion and partner, Bill Sharpton of Greenville, relatives, and friends.

A number of years ago Marian penned her own obituary. She wrote: "Marian was born in Sumter, South Carolina, which was always a sore point with her. In her adult years, she liked to tell people "I was born when my family was living in Charleston," and let her listeners draw their own conclusions. Marian grew up in Greer, and her memories of her childhood were pleasant. When she was 9 years old, she had what would prove to be a life-changing experience. She read the book "Angel Unaware" written in 1953 by Dale Evans about her child who had been born with Down Syndrome, a little girl who lived less than 3 years, but whose life as told by her mother changed the way that America viewed children with mental retardation. Marian's vision of

herself became that of a teacher of handicapped children. She attended Winthrop College, earned a degree in special education, and began teaching an elementary special education class at Berea Elementary in the Berea community. She missed her college graduation in order to observe the class that she would be teaching at the end of the Christmas break. Marian loved her teaching and loved the Berea community. She taught there for nine years. Though Marian held several jobs in the field of special education, she used to say that the only years that were nostalgic for her were those happy years at Berea. After retirement Marian occupied her time with the League of Women Voters, the Alpha Delta Kappa, and exercise class at the Greer Athletic Club. When her mother, due to ill health, went to a care facility, Marian became an even more patient care-giver and guardian of her mother's peace of mind. She was a member of Memorial United Methodist Church, her childhood church, which she rejoined in her adult years. Marian enjoyed travelling, and especially enjoyed cruising. However, her happiest vacation memories are those of her childhood when her family would take a week-long trip to one of the South Carolina beaches. In her young adulthood, Marian became a cat lover and remained so throughout the rest of her life. She used to laugh and call herself an old maid lady with a cat. Marian was a good friend and had good friends. Though she never married, she was privileged to have had several deep, and years-long relationships which enriched her life enormously and for which she was extremely grateful. With love, Marian bids you all goodbye.”

A memorial service will be held 12:00 p.m. Monday, February 17, 2020 at The Wood Mortuary, officiated by the Rev. Beth Templeton. The service will be followed by a gathering for community and food at Memorial United Methodist Church Social Hall.

Memorial gifts to Memorial United Methodist Church, 201 N. Main St., Greer, SC 29650 or Miracle Hill Ministries, 490 S. Pleasantburg Dr., Greenville, SC 29602.

Online condolences may be made at www.thewoodmortuary.com

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 17. 12:00 PM (ET)

THE WOOD MORTUARY CHAPEL
300 West Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29650
(864) 877-3351
woodmortuary@bellsouth.net

Tribute Wall



“ *The Wood Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of Marian Barnes Hayes*



The Wood Mortuary - February 13, 2020 at 06:28 PM



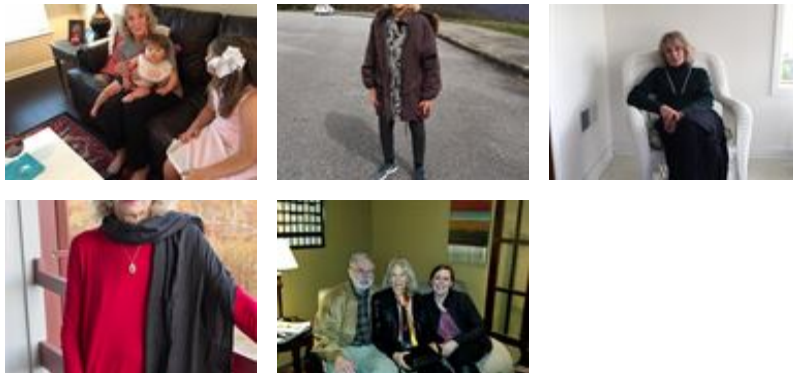
“ *Marian was a very compassionate young lady. It was a pleasure to work with her in Greenville County.*



Gloria D Clark - August 25, 2024 at 03:09 AM



“ *14 files added to the album Life Tributes*



The Wood Mortuary - February 11, 2020 at 02:50 PM

EW

“ So , so sad. For all of us who knew and loved her. Marian was my workout buddy at the Greer Athletic Club. We had such fun times. And we were determined.
She was a beautiful, sweet person. I'm blessed to
Have known her.
Ellen Wall



Ellen Wall - January 31, 2020 at 06:56 PM

DF

“ So sorry for your loss. Marian was a dear, sweet lady. 💕



Donna Fowler - January 30, 2020 at 07:09 PM

BP

“ Susan and family, I am so sad to hear of Marian's death. I will have you in my heart and prayers for strength and comfort during this difficult time.
Babs Parris Prust

Babs Parris Prust - January 29, 2020 at 03:36 PM

DK

“ Darlene Key lit a candle in memory of Marian Barnes Hayes



Darlene Key - January 29, 2020 at 07:53 AM

MA

“ Went to HS reunion together awhile back. Glad to have all the memories from years past. My brother, Leland sent me the obituary. Too soon for her to go. Sorry for your loss, Susan, Mary Jean and Tommy.

Mary Ann - January 28, 2020 at 02:40 PM

AK

“ Angie Ashmore Kruse lit a candle in memory of Marian Barnes Hayes



Angie Ashmore Kruse - January 24, 2020 at 04:52 PM

JW

“ Dear Mary Gene and Susan, I am so sorry to hear the news about Marian. I have many, many years of fond memories. Please accept my deepest condolences.
Jean Wood



Jean Wood - January 23, 2020 at 03:26 PM

JP

“ Marian was a dear friend at Greer High School. A beautiful, intelligent, compassionate lady. Heartfelt sympathy to all who loved and knew Marian Hayes. She will be greatly missed.



judy ponder - January 23, 2020 at 09:43 AM

LH

I've known Marian through our shared participation in progressive activities in the community. She was an intellect, a wit, and a kind and gentle person of the first magnitude. I shall always treasure her friendship.

Linda Hardman - January 24, 2020 at 12:10 PM

BE

Mary Gene, You are in our prayers. God Bless you. You & your sister look alike. I remember our yoga classes. Bea Heberger (Joan Craig's mom)

BeaHeberger - February 06, 2020 at 01:26 PM

SF

“ *Sue Campbell Fowler lit a candle in memory of Marian Barnes Hayes*



Sue Campbell Fowler - January 22, 2020 at 09:35 PM

SF

“ *Marian and I became friends while attending Greer High School. She was a great friend and I cherished her friendship. I was so saddened to learn of Marian's passing. My thought and prayers to her family.*



Sue Campbell Fowler

Sue Campbell Fowler - January 22, 2020 at 05:40 PM

GS

Marian was such an awesome lady! I just wish I had known her earlier in life. We had a lot in common. My thoughts and prayers 🙏 to the family and Bill.

Gwyn Smith

Gwyn Smith - January 31, 2020 at 12:40 PM

PW

So sad to hear! She was my parent's neighbor for a longtime. We loved her and appreciated the friendship that she showed our parents until they passed. Her kindness will always be remembered in our hearts!

*The Smith Girls and their Families
Freda, Wanda, and Pam*

Pam Wolf - February 15, 2020 at 12:39 PM