



Mary Wheeler Zelle

March 16, 1936 - May 28, 2024

Mary Wheeler Zelle of Hillsboro, Tennessee, passed from this life on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at Vanderbilt Harton Hospital in Tullahoma, Tennessee at the age of 88 years. No services are planned at this time.

Mrs. Zelle, born in St. Louis, Missouri, was the daughter of the late Paul Allen and Lydia Frances Russell Wheeler. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, John David Zelle in 2015. She was also preceded by one sister, Carol Bell and two sons-in-law, Bobby Smith, and Wayne Fuller.

She grew up in Houston, Texas and raised her family in Hendersonville, Tennessee. She was a medical transcriptionist at Memorial Orthopedic Group for several years. She then lived in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where she returned to school and earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts. Mary was an artist. She loved to paint, to knit and to play bridge. She was always willing to share her completed art and knitting projects with those she loved. She was the best mother and will forever leave a void in our hearts that will never be filled.

Survivors include four daughters, Susan Zelle (Randy) Cawood of Beaufort, South Carolina. Margaret Zelle Smith of Hillsboro, Tennessee, Katherine Zelle Fuller of Berea, Kentucky and Jean Marie Zelle of Nashville, Tennessee. She is also survived by six grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Online condolences may be made at www.davesculbertsonfuneralhome.com. Daves-Culbertson Funeral Home is assisting the family.

Tribute Wall

HK

“ *Helen Kidd lit a candle in memory of Mary Zelle*



Helen Kidd - September 24, 2024 at 05:06 AM

JD

“ *I, too, originally met Mary online. Then, when my husband and I were in TX for the winter, I met her and John several times...including for breakfast when she was down to see an Aunt. Ray and I met them again when their Mississippi River cruise stopped in Dubuque. Her paintings and knitted projects were indeed works of art. She'll be missed in our online breast cancer support group.*

jane

Jane DeNeve - June 14, 2024 at 02:16 PM

SE

“ *Mary & I met virtually on Senior Net--now Seniors & Friends, way back in the 90's, but we made an effort to meet her in person on our way through Chattanooga, several years ago. She was a really good artist and a lovely person. I will miss her on-line presence. My condolences to her beloved family.*

Sharon Ede - June 13, 2024 at 02:29 PM

LL

“ I was so glad to get to see Aunt Mary a few years ago on a road trip through her neck of the woods. We sat outside and she shared family stories I'd never heard and I felt such a warmth and ease around her. There was the immediate comfort you feel around close family even though it had been a long long time since we'd seen each other. Thinking fondly of her and lighting a candle in her honor tonight.



Lydia Landau - May 30, 2024 at 08:39 PM

MR

“ My beautiful Mommy! My heart aches very much. I had the pleasure of being one of Mary's daughters from a foreign country Venezuela. She is very special to me. Is hard always to see someone you love leave but she is in better hands now with Daddy and Bobby. My most sincere condolences from the Redondo family and particularly from me. Mommy I will always love you and thank you for making me feel part of the family always. Sue, Kate, Margaret, and Jean I am truly sorry for your loss. May the angels guide her way to heaven peacefully. Rest in peace, Mommy! Rest in Peace. I love you, mommy!



Marjorie Redondo - May 30, 2024 at 03:37 PM

KN

“ Katherine, Chris, and Elizabeth Neal planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Wheeler Zelle.

Katherine, Chris, and Elizabeth Neal - May 30, 2024 at 03:04 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Wheeler Zelle.*



May 30, 2024 at 03:04 AM



“ *Once when Mary new we needed pink hats for a women's march she quickly knitted and sent us pink hats. She knew that I couldn't knit and rushed to help without being asked. She was the kindest, best Aunt in the world. We haven't seen Mary in a long time as we live in Australia, but she helped us from across the world.*



Katherine Neal - May 29, 2024 at 08:51 PM



“ *I got to know Mary when she moved into morning pointe it was a privilege to spend time with her and help her with whatever she needed she was a fine person her family cared so much for their mother she was such a loving and caring person even after I retired from morning pointe I would stop in and visit with Mary I will miss her a lot but iam so greatful for the years I got to help take care of this beautiful lady you will be missed but never forgotten love lisa*

Lisa Grant - May 29, 2024 at 07:15 PM