



# Mary L. McAtee

JUL 29, 1931 - APR 30, 2025



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# Mary L. McAtee

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## Mary McAtee Obituary

Mary L. McAtee (nee Lightfoot), 93, of Elyria, died Wednesday April 30, 2025. She was born July 29, 1931 in Elyria, and a 1949 graduate of Elyria High School.

After high school, Mary attended Cleveland College and worked as a secretary for Music Corporation of America, a theatrical booking agency that afforded her the opportunity to meet a variety of famous artists and celebrities.

Two years later, seeking an adventure, she and a girlfriend boarded a train and moved to Albuquerque, where Mary again found secretarial work. She joined an astronomy club, a caving club and learned to ride a show horse for the New Mexico State Fair. The adventure finally ended - the girlfriend got married and Mary returned to Cleveland.

Back home, Mary took a job with the May Company in the advertising department. She met and married Marlin Jay McAtee of Columbus and continued working for the May Company and for Taylor's Department Store as an advertising copywriter.

After the birth of their son, Mary left Taylor's to focus on raising the baby. The couple separated in 1963 and Mary found work as a substitute teacher in North Ridgeville. She completed her Bachelors of Education degree at Ashland College and began teaching 5th Grade at Fields Elementary in North Ridgeville and Windsor Elementary in Elyria. She retired from Elyria City Schools in 1991.

Active in retirement, Mary was a member and past president of the Lorain County Retired Teachers Association. She was a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an honorary society for women educators. Mary raised orchids in her home greenhouse and was a member and past president of the West Shore Orchid Society. She was a volunteer with the AARP Tax-Aide



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program, serving first as a tax preparer and later as District Coordinator in charge of tax sites around the county.

She also made time for pleasure, going on several ocean and river cruises during retirement, and making visits to Europe and Russia. Always an avid reader, Mary had her Kindle filled with mystery novels.

Mary is survived by her son, Glenn McAtee of Powell; her brother, James A. Parsch, and a host of nieces and nephews who knew her as “Aunt Lu”.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Dorothy H. Parsch (nee Snyder); father, Arthur J. Lightfoot; sister-in-law Frances M. Parsch and cousin, Barbara A. Watts.

Friends will be received Monday, May 12, 2025 from 10:00 am until the time of an 11:30 am service at Dicken Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 323 Middle Avenue, Elyria with Reverend Kathryn Ketchum officiating. Burial will follow in North Murray Ridge Cemetery, Elyria Township.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Friends of the Elyria Public Library System.

To send flowers  
to the family or plant a tree  
in memory of Mary L. McAtee, please visit our floral store.

[Read More](#)



## Tribute Wall

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AM

**A Memorial Tree Was Planted For Mary L. McAtee** posted:

A Memorial Tree was planted for Mary L. McAtee We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ the staff at Dicken Funeral Home & Cremation Service Join in honoring their life - plant a memorial tree

April 22 at 8:56 AM

AP

**Ann Porter** posted:

Dear Glenn, thank you for letting me know that your mother has passed. I only met her once, but I felt like I knew her well from your stories about growing up with her. Those stories got me through some complex feelings about single parenthood - she was a great role model even though she didn't know it. I hope you're doing OK.

May 26 at 3:51 PM

CC

**Craig Cornell** posted:

Mrs McAtee, you were my fifth grade teacher at Windsor school in Elyria in the team teaching classroom the year that I won the school spelling bee. You were so caring with us students and left me with memories I will cherish always. God bless and rest in peace Mrs McAtee.

May 10 at 8:58 AM

BS

**Bob Sigsworth** posted:

Glenn, James and family, so very sorry for your loss. Mrs. McAtee was my 4th grade teacher at Fields School in 1966-67, and one of my best and most memorable teachers - she knew when we needed a pat on the back and she also knew when we needed a good swift kick. She touched many young lives in the classroom, but it's also fascinating to read about all of the other things she achieved in her life before and after her teaching career. May you find much comfort in your memories of her.

May 7 at 6:25 PM



# **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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