



## Mary "Beth" Deering

February 22, 1951 - January 16, 2025

Mary "Beth" Deering, born on February 22, 1951 in Springfield, Missouri, passed away on January 16, 2025 at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis, MO, after a courageous battle with cancer. She was 73 years old.

Beth's early years were marked by frequent moves due to her father's role as a minister for the First Christian Church. She lived in various towns across Missouri and Oklahoma, including Richland, Clever, Hartville, Weleetka, and Thayer, ultimately graduating from Thayer High School in 1969. She later pursued higher education, earning both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Education at Drury College.

Reflecting on her childhood, she spoke of how moving frequently helped her adapt to new places and people. She believed that happiness could be found in the connections she made, saying, "The best lesson I learned was that people respond the same way they are treated."

In 1983, Beth married the love of her life, Dan Deering, and together they raised their three children: William Evans (Lisa) of Eureka, MO, Cassie Wilson (Rob) of Waynesville, and Kristin Ross (Zach) of Waynesville. Her family was the centerpiece of her life, and she cherished her role as a wife, mother, and grandmother. She was a proud grandmother to nine: Cameron, Reese, Sawyer, Everett, Sydney, Max, Charlie, Cate, and Lola.

Beth's professional career was dedicated to education and empowering young minds. She began her teaching journey at Richland Elementary School and later shaped countless lives as an 8th-grade English Language Arts teacher at Waynesville Middle School. Beth worked in various roles at what is now the Waynesville Career Center, including At-Risk programs and Marketing, where she served as a DECA sponsor. Her passion for mentorship shone brightly as she guided students to state and international competitions and helped students raise significant funds for the Muscular Dystrophy Association through community events.

Beyond her career, Beth enjoyed a variety of hobbies that showcased her creativity and intellect. She loved crocheting, reading, solving crossword puzzles, and tackling jigsaw puzzles. Beth also enjoyed traveling - whether it was cross-country family road trips or traveling overseas after retirement with Dan. Her talent for cooking and her knack for proofreading papers were sources of joy for her family and friends. She was also an active member of her "Book Club" and the Waynesville Career Center Advisory Committee.

Beth is preceded in death by her father, Byron Thomas Clark, mother, Artie Francis Clark (Woody), father-in-law, Gene Coy Deering, and mother-in-law, Sally Mae Deering (Swinney), and several aunts and uncles, whose values and love shaped the incredible woman she became.

Her legacy lives on in the hearts of her husband, children, grandchildren, and all who were fortunate enough to know her. She will be remembered for her kindness, her wisdom, and her unwavering belief in the power of human connection.

A celebration of Beth's life was held on Thursday, January 23, 2025 at Waypoint Methodist Church, at 6:00pm with presiding minister Pastor Brett

Reith and officiant Doug Shivers participating. The Honorable Colin Long gave a beautiful eulogy and recalled his wonderful memories of Beth. Pianist David Lawson played "Softly & Tenderly", "How Great Thou Art", "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" and "It Is Well with My Soul" for the service as well as the prelude and postlude. Services were under the care and direction of Memorial Chapels and Crematory of Waynesville / St. Robert.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Waynesville R-VI Foundation in her memory.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JAN 23. 3:00 PM.

Waypoint Church Of Waynesville

## Celebration of Life Service

JAN 23. 6:00 PM.

Waypoint Church Of Waynesville

# Tribute Wall



“ *Memorial Chapels and Crematory created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary "Beth" Deering*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - February 01, 2025 at 01:03 PM

KM

“ *Dan and family: I am so saddened by Beth's passing. She was always such a joy to be around. I had the privilege of not only being her friend but also her trusted insurance agent. So many years I have enjoyed knowing your family and somehow can't fathom a world without Beth! She was always so pretty, both in actions and words and soft spoken but always heard. My heart goes out to each of you.*

*Kathy McKay*

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**Kathy McKay** - January 27, 2025 at 12:56 PM

CB

“ *Oh, how I loved being greeted in elementary school by this woman. She was always so beautifully dressed and smelled so nice and always had dangling bracelets that clicked against the chalkboard as she wrote. I would pretend at home to be just like her! I did not follow in the teaching profession, but I will always fondly remember her this way, the epitome of a perfect teacher!!*

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**Connie Becker** - January 25, 2025 at 02:45 PM

MT

“ Beth was not only my 7th grade teacher, but a role model, colleague, and friend. She was beautiful inside and outside. I was later granted the opportunity to be Beth's "corn hole" partner. We made fun memories at that event. I will forever cherish the memories of the " best corn hole" partner ever!! Prayers to Beth's family! It was an honor to call her my friend!

Maxine Thompson - January 23, 2025 at 03:17 PM

SL

“ We are deeply saddened by the loss of Beth. She and I developed the At Risk Program at Waynesville Career Center (WTA) and were instructors in that program. Beth was always kind and caring to our students. My husband Kenneth reflects on his interactions as a coach, instructor and friend to Dan. My heart is heavy and my family sends our condolences to Dan, William, Cassie and Kristen. Rest well my friend Beth. —Stephanie and Kenneth Lewis

Stephanie Lewis - January 23, 2025 at 01:20 PM

MG

“ Marianna Fowler Gurley lit a candle in memory of Mary Deering



Marianna Fowler Gurley - January 22, 2025 at 05:46 PM



“ 3 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - January 22, 2025 at 03:52 PM



“ 134 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**Memorial Chapels and Crematory** - January 22, 2025 at 02:32 PM



“ *J Kelley lit a candle in memory of Mary Deering*



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**J Kelley** - January 22, 2025 at 12:35 PM

CC

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. She was a truly great person. She was my 2nd grade teacher and had a profound influence on me. She was a wonderful teacher.

Chris Carroll - January 22, 2025 at 12:52 AM

KC

“ So sorry for your loss Danny! Sending love and prayers cuz ! Keith and Robyn Conway

Keith Conway - January 21, 2025 at 10:02 PM

LC

“ Linda cole-schonbok sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Deering



Linda cole-schonbok - January 21, 2025 at 06:43 PM

JJ

“ Jack Dale Fincher Jr. lit a candle in memory of Mary Deering



Jack Dale Fincher Jr. - January 21, 2025 at 06:02 PM

TA

“ Sorry Deering family for Mrs. Deering passing. I am sorry that this World has lost a truly precious soul. Mrs Deering made an impact on my life in 8th grade. I was a mess and Mrs. Deering met me right where I was and helped me the best she could. Her kindness and acceptance will be carried with me for my life time. “Thank You Mrs. Deering!” ❤️

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**Tracey L. Ayres** - January 21, 2025 at 12:14 PM

GM


“ I'm sorry to hear of Beth's death! Beth and I went to Hartville High School together. Her father, Byron, pastored our church. My family, Orval Asher Family, loved Beth and her parents!❤️ I'm praying for your comfort 🙏  
Gale Asher Matson

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**Gale Asher Matson** - January 21, 2025 at 08:28 AM

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“ *Our sincere Condolences*  
*We have always felt blessed to have had Mrs. Deering as one of our daughter Halley(Fleming)'s teachers. We heard Mrs. Deering's name a lot in our home when our daughter was in her Waynesville School days , all great and exciting things. We knew then that Mrs. Deering must be a special person. We have and will always think of Mrs. Deering as a kind, graceful, beautiful, hardworking woman who loved her community. Every time we drive thru downtown Waynesville and see the beautification that has been done lamp posts, clock we think of Mrs. Deering.*



*We have always believed the foundation of our daughter's success began way back in her Waynesville school days when she was taught by some incredible teachers, one being Mrs. Deering who left quite the impression.*

*Joshua 1:9*

*SFC US Army(ret)John and Deb Roberts  
Waynesville, MO*

*Ephesians 6:10-18  
The Armor of God*

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**US Army SFC(ret)John and Deb (Williamson - January 20, 2025 at 06:23 PM**

WW

“ *Dan and Family, I am heartbroken for your loss. Beth was such a bright light to all those she came in contact with. My deepest condolences.*

*Wendy Whynot*

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**Wendy M Whynot - January 20, 2025 at 02:42 PM**

JT

“ *Sorry for your loss  
-Jerry and Sherry Taylor*

Jerry Taylor - January 20, 2025 at 01:40 PM

LW

“ *Beth will be deeply missed. My thoughts and prayers are with the family.*



Lorna West - January 19, 2025 at 08:01 PM

RL

“ *Beth came to Waynesville Junior High when William and Cassie were young. She and I became friends and Colin entertained William when the two came to WJH after school. Beth was a charming, loving lady who was loved by all who knew her.*

RUTH B. LONG - January 19, 2025 at 11:03 AM

MS

“ *Beth was so caring and loving. I remember our little chats at the Collectors Office with Terry. We enjoyed so many laughs together. She is now free of pain and in the arms of God her Heavenly Father. May HE wrap HIS arms around the family at this difficult time and bring you comfort and peace. GOD BLESS 🙏*



Marge Scott - January 19, 2025 at 09:24 AM

JD

“ Dan and family, we are so sorry to hear of Beth’s passing. Prayers and our sincere condolences to your family. Dennis and Joy Deering

Joy Deering - January 19, 2025 at 08:56 AM

JT

“ A better person never walked this earth. My prayers are with Beth’s family as you walk through this heart breaking time.



Janis Thompson - January 19, 2025 at 08:32 AM

CD

“ Cornelia & Robert Dodds lit a candle in memory of Mary Deering



Cornelia & Robert Dodds - January 19, 2025 at 07:26 AM

KJ

“ Dan and family, we are so saddened to learn of Beth’s passing. She was such a wonderful soul and we’re so fortunate to get to know her over our many years on Glen Haven. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you today and as you move forward.



Kevin and Wendy Johnson - January 18, 2025 at 11:56 PM

DM

“ Dawn and Robert McKee lit a candle in memory of Mary Deering



Dawn and Robert McKee - January 18, 2025 at 10:18 PM

BW

“ Such a shining light. She always spoke so kind and gentle. A true lady, who will be deeply missed. My condolences to Dan and her family.



Beth Wiles - January 18, 2025 at 08:54 PM

WA

“ William anderson lit a candle in memory of Mary Deering



William anderson - January 18, 2025 at 08:32 PM

EA

“ Earl & Michelle Arnold lit a candle in memory of Mary Deering



Earl & Michelle Arnold - January 18, 2025 at 08:14 PM

K(

“ *She was a great teacher, kind and thoughtful.*

Kathrine Ousley (Kelley) - January 18, 2025 at 07:58 PM

SH

“ *Mrs. Deering was a great teacher and a friend. She will be sadly missed, our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time. May she rest in the arms of our lord.*



Sue Covert Herron - January 18, 2025 at 04:18 PM

RB

“ *Very sweet nice lady. Always had a smile and great attitude for life. She will be missed*

Richard Baptiste - January 18, 2025 at 03:26 PM

SD

“ *Sheila Debo lit a candle in memory of Mary Deering*



Sheila Debo - January 18, 2025 at 02:12 PM

CA

“ *My prayers for Mr Deering and family,*



carleen - January 18, 2025 at 12:52 PM

PC

“ *Pamela Cox sent a virtual gift in memory of  
Mary Deering*



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**Pamela Cox** - January 18, 2025 at 12:29 PM