



Mary Faye Karras Shaia

May 8, 1941 - November 25, 2017

Mary Faye Karras Shaia, May 8, 1941-Nov. 25, 2017

During her 33 years as a middle school guidance counselor in South Bend, Indiana, Mary Faye (Karras) Shaia touched the lives of hundreds of adolescent boys and girls.

When Mary and her husband, Bill, were cleaning out cabinets recently, they unpacked a trove of cards, letters and notes of appreciation from those students, their parents and her fellow faculty members.

Those notes were reflective of Mary's life of service to her community, her friends and her family.

"There were students who wrote her after high school or college stating what a positive significance she had made on their lives," said Bill.

Mary Shaia died Saturday, Nov. 25, 2017, in Sarasota, Florida. She was 76 years old.

The daughter of Steve and Joanna Karras, she was born May 8, 1941, in South Bend. She earned degrees from the National College of Education and Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. She was South Bend Community School Corporation Teacher of the Year in 1988.

Her community service extended to years of involvement with the Good Samaritan Society of St. Andrew Greek Orthodox Church in South Bend. After she and Bill moved to Sarasota in 2002, she served two terms as president of P.E.O. Chapter DM, and established a scholarship fund for young women there.

She and Bill were married for more than 47 years. They met when she was ending an eight-week internship at a South Bend hospital and Bill, as the newly hired director of

human resources, was assigned to conduct her exit interview. He'd been speaking with his predecessor in the hospital cafeteria when Mary walked in.

"Who is THAT?" Bill interrupted the other man. At the end of his interview with Mary a few days later, he asked her to dinner, and the next day told a friend that he'd met a "stunning looking woman" who was also smart and sweet and that he intended to marry her. They married on June 26, 1970, in South Bend.

She was known for her love of gourmet cooking and contributed 32 recipes to the Junior League Cookbook in South Bend.

She is survived by her husband, Bill, of Osprey, FL, daughter, Kareme M. Shaia of Orlando, FL, brother, S. Andrew Karras of Raleigh, NC, and nieces, Nina L. Karras of Raleigh, NC, and Kelly (Brendan) Krause of London, England.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 1, at Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church in Sarasota. Burial will be in South Bend, Indiana.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to P.E.O. Chapter DM Scholarship Fund, 4471 Streamside Court, Sarasota FL 34238, or to Tidewell Hospice.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ *May our Creator's promises sustain you until you are reunited with your loved one on a Paradise earth soon to come!*

Joni Garry - May 10, 2018 at 12:00 AM



“ *I was so very sorry to hear about my childhood friend. I had a lot of happy memories growing up with her in South Bend. She will be missed.*
Frances Makris Michos

December 09, 2017 at 12:00 AM

MM

“ *In loving memory of a wonderful person. We will love you and miss you always.*

Margaret McCurry - December 01, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CR

“ *Mary was a shining light to those of us who knew her. She brought kindness and understanding to those whose lives she touched. Prayers to her family .*

Carla Maureen Roberts - November 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM



“ *Dear Mr. Shaia and Kareme: I am sad to hear of your loss of your wife/mother. Many years ago when I worked at Mr. Shaia's bookstore, I had occasion to meet Mrs. Shaia. She was a gracious lady! She and your family are in my prayers.*
Memory Eternal!
~ Mary Frances

November 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ I had the wonderful pleasure of working with Mary Shaia at Kennedy School when I moved bay to South Bend. I was the new secretary part-time at Kennedy and Muessel - she was such an encouragement to me and offered many smiles! I am a better person for knowing Mary.

To the family, Mary will be missed, but the joy she brought to others along with her caring and helpful spirit will go on and on. A precious memory to hold dearly.

May the love of our Dear Lord pour over your spirits and bring peace to your hearts as you walk through this time of sorrow. With deepest sympathy the Townsell/Winters family.

Juanita Townsell - November 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

CS

“ I am so sad! Mary was such a dear, caring person. She was always so kind and helpful. You have my deepest and most heartfelt sympathy. You ate in my thoughts and prayers.



Cindy Streich - November 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ To say Mary Faye's baklava was the best I've ever tasted is an understatement. When Bill brought her baked treats into the office each year at Christmas time to share, I could hardly wait to savor them. However, her smile, her warmth and the beauty of her spirit will be greatly missed by all who knew her in this life.
Jill Mark

Jill Mark - November 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Mary was a wonderful person and an even better friend. We will miss her dearly.
Dr Howard and Barbara Simon

Dr Howard Simon - November 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GH

“ I was always honored to be one of Mary's many friends. She and I would share many career experiences in the education world. Her laugh is such a strong memory for me. Her love for her husband and daughter was always so prominent. One shared memory from a mutual friend was how much Mary cared for, supported and loved her husband so dearly. When I repeated that sentiment to Mary recently she thanked me and said that Bill has always been her rock and salvation. She will be missed always by so many friends and her family.
Gaile Harpan

Gaile Harpan - November 28, 2017 at 12:00 AM