



Margaret M. Hart

November 27, 1935 - November 26, 2024

Albany, NY-It is with a profound sense of gratitude and love that we remember Margaret Hart, who passed away peacefully on the eve of her 89th birthday surrounded by family on November 26, 2024, in Albany, New York.

Born on November 27, 1935 to Paul Sullivan and Eleanor McAdory in Potsdam, New York, Margaret's life was a tapestry woven with kindness, intelligence, and an unwavering commitment to education and family. She grew up in beautiful Upstate New York with her four beloved siblings— Al, Helen, Paul Pat, and John who she was predeceased by. She was an active child with an ardent reading habit.

Margaret's career as a first-grade teacher at School 16 in the Albany Public School System was marked by her exceptional dedication and genuine passion for shaping young minds. She never tired of helping six-year-olds learn to read and write. She found it invigorating. Her fellow teachers affectionately called her 'Mother Margaret' because of her sage advice and helping hand. She earned an advanced degree while raising four kids and taught until the age of seventy. Her contributions even continued as a volunteer in reading rooms post-retirement.

Although, teaching was her gift— Margaret's greatest role was being the matriarch of the Hart family. All four of her children decided to return and settle

back in Albany to be close to her. Margaret's family gatherings were legendary, best expressed through St. Patrick's Day scavenger hunts that were as clever as she was. She also hosted regular book clubs for her eleven grandchildren where they all were tasked with giving elaborate book reports in her attic. These club meetings were comically referred to as CIA meetings AKA Chimps in the Attic. Her Mac&Cheese was famous at these events and caused wars between the grandchildren over who would get the biggest helping. Margaret enjoyed various summer vacations to the Adirondacks and the Outerbanks with her almost twenty-person brood. She also made her way to Europe various times and even the Vatican to see the Pope.

Margaret thrived in social settings, from lively engagements with fellow teachers at BEFF's and Lanie's and later, vibrant gatherings in her Avila retirement community, embodying the spirit of a true social butterfly. She was also an active parishioner at the church of Mater Christi.

Margaret's character was reminiscent of staunch and powerful women like Katherine Hepburn; she was stoic, well-spoken, and had a knack for delivering humor and insights with just a gesture or witty one-liner. Her family could rely on her to be their rock no matter what the situation. She was absolutely unflappable and masterful with her insights when you needed them the most.

She is survived by her children, Mary Ellen Kavanaugh (Joe), James Hart (Lena), Helen Squillace (John), and Margo Palmer (Mike) along with her eleven grandchildren— Katie Waller (Patrick), Nicholas Awad (Marina), Tyler Gilbert-Kavanaugh, Marcus Hart, Nolan Hart, Miranda Hart, John Patrick Squillace, Natalie Squillace , Mikaela Palmer, Jake Palmer, and Luke Palmer. She is also survived by her three great grandchildren— William Waller, Violet Waller, and Oliver Kavanaugh whose lives are a testament to her unconditional love and guidance.

Margaret's life will be honored at a visitation on Monday, December 2, 2024 at McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany, NY 12206 from 3 pm to 6 pm. Please enter the funeral home from the rear parking lot entrance only. Her Funeral Mass will be on Tuesday, December 3, 2024 at 9:30am at the Parish of Mater Christi, 40 Hopewell Street (Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle Way), Albany, NY 12208.

The Rite of Committal will be held at St. Agnes Cemetery immediately following the Funeral Mass.

To leave a message for the family please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Her legacy of love, humor, and intellect endures through her family, friends, and community. As we reflect on her life, William Kennedy's words come to mind: "It's quite uncanny what one sets in motion by being oneself." Margaret's authentic spirit set in motion a legacy that will be cherished for generations to come.

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC 2. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

Funeral Mass

DEC 3. 9:30 AM (ET)

Parish of Mater Christi
40 Hopewell Street (Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle Way)
Albany, NY 12208

Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Margaret M. Hart*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - December 02, 2024 at 04:52 PM

LB

“ *Dear Hart Family, I am so saddened to hear of the passing of your mom. When I started my teaching career in 1986 at School 16 Margaret was always there to give advice to a very young teacher just getting her feet wet. I truly enjoyed working with her and sharing our very tight knit lunch hour together. She was an outstanding teacher and I will always be grateful I had time with her. She taught me a lot.*

Hugs and love to you all.

Sincerely,

Leslie Bogucki.

Leslie Bogucki - December 07, 2024 at 07:54 PM

TL

“ *Mrs. Hart was always so welcoming to us as kids in the neighborhood. She allowed us to be ourselves, to be engaged and to have fun. Nothing but fond memories. My deepest condolences and sympathy to the Hart family and my childhood friend "Margego". I'm sorry for your loss.*

Tracy Levine - December 05, 2024 at 01:23 PM

KK

Could someone tell me if Margaret was an artist? My husband's sister's portrait was done in pastels, I think. It's beautiful and it was done before she died in the 90's. It is so beautiful and hangs in a prominent place on our stairwell. I have always wanted to find the artist. I think they must have been friends. Her name was Sue Ann Kalafut and lived near Buffalo. Thank you for your kindness in helping us solve this mystery. We always wanted to thank her for this cherished portrait. God bless you all; and God bless Margaret.

Kathy Kalafut - December 19, 2024 at 12:03 PM

CH

“ my sincere condolences to the entire family of Margaret Hart may her soul rest in heaven she was a wonderful and lovely person. I will miss her

chitra - December 05, 2024 at 11:22 AM

BG

“ Mary Ellen I'm so sorry to hear of the loss of your mother. I worked with her for many years at School 16 which was my first assignment in Albany. She was very nice to me. Fondly, Beth Greco

Beth Greco - December 04, 2024 at 10:55 AM

KT

“ Mrs. Hart was my first grade teacher back in 89-90. She was one of the best teachers I had and I remember her classroom in the basement of School 16 very well. My condolences to her family on the loss of a truly remarkable woman.

Kyra Thornton - December 03, 2024 at 02:07 PM

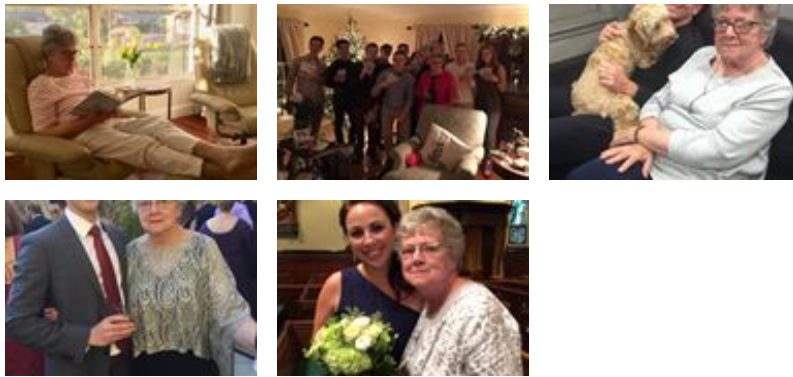
DW

“ *Mary Ellen, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear Mother. You are in my thoughts and I hope that You find great Peace in knowing that She has now embraced the fullness of God's Love, Sincerely, Donna Wickert*

Donna Wickert - December 02, 2024 at 10:46 PM

MCVEIGH
FUNERAL HOME, INC.
(518) 489-0188

“ *100 files added to the album LifeTributes*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - December 02, 2024 at 11:49 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Margaret M. Hart.*



December 02, 2024 at 10:14 AM

LD

“ *So very sorry for the loss of your Mother Helen. I hope her love for life and commitment to family bring you all peace. Lori Dunigan*

Lori Dunigan - December 02, 2024 at 08:39 AM

JR

“ Jessica and Mia Raisdanaee-Terris purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Margaret M. Hart.



Jessica and Mia Raisdanaee-Terris - December 01, 2024 at 08:49 PM

JR

“ Jessica and Mia Raisdanaee-Terris planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Margaret M. Hart.

Jessica and Mia Raisdanaee-Terris - December 01, 2024 at 08:49 PM

MK

“ Marc K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Margaret M. Hart.

Marc K. - December 01, 2024 at 07:00 PM

LF

“ Love, the Creaser Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Margaret M. Hart.



Love, the Creaser Family - December 01, 2024 at 06:15 PM

LF

“ Love, the Creaser Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Margaret M. Hart.

Love, the Creaser Family - December 01, 2024 at 06:15 PM

AS

“ We are very sorry for your loss. Jody and Tony Scardillo

Anthony Scardillo - December 01, 2024 at 03:01 PM

HG

“ Hugs & Love, The Bona Girls purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Margaret M. Hart.



Hugs & Love, The Bona Girls - November 30, 2024 at 07:36 PM

SL

“ Mrs Hart was my daughter's first grade teacher (1991-92). She was an amazing teacher and my daughter loved her class. My sympathy to all of her children and grandchildren. She will be sorely missed.

Sharon Lescak - November 30, 2024 at 03:24 PM

TG

“ The Oswego Girls purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Margaret M. Hart.



The Oswego Girls - November 30, 2024 at 11:50 AM

FR

“ <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3QS7-89MZ-9R59?view=index&personArk=%2Fark%3A%2F61903%2F1%3A1%3A7FCM-C8ZM&action=view&cc=1999177>
Born November 26, 1935 in Niagara Falls, NY

Friend - November 30, 2024 at 10:09 AM

YF

“ *Your Oracle Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Margaret M. Hart.*



Your Oracle Family - November 27, 2024 at 06:25 PM