



# Mary Juanita Makris

DEC 1, 1943 - APR 7, 2024



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MEMORIAL PARK  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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# Mary Juanita Makris

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**M**ary Juanita Makris, age 80, passed away Sunday, April 7, 2024 at Baptist Reynolds Hospice House with her husband of 50 years, Steve Makris, by her side.

Raised in Brownsville, TN, she graduated from Haywood County High School in 1961. In 1976, with her husband and partner, Steve, they opened The Stage Stop, which would become a Memphis music staple. Nita Makris, affectionately known as the matriarch of The Stage Stop, dedicated over four decades to the people and the music within those walls. Her passion for music transcended mere business; it was a labor of love. The worn stage that hosted countless bands, the wooden dance floor that had to be waxed often and was perfect for a slow dance or for those who wanted a closer view, the beloved sound system the bands were always raving about, the carpeted walls that held years of memories, and the love you felt as soon as you walked in the door will always be remembered. Nita's laughter was a treasure and her smile a beacon for both seasoned musicians and aspiring talents. She nurtured and cheered beginning musicians to gain confidence and never stop playing, while keeping some other seasoned musicians grounded with a little help from her water gun. She loved people, welcomed strangers, and always had time for a "Mama Nita" talk with her regulars. The Stage Stop was more than food, drinks, and music; it was about a connection with people and music, helping others on hard times, making memories and even meeting your future spouse. Nita was always willing to help those in need, hosting countless benefits for individuals, as well as, raising money every year for the charity that was near and dear to her heart, MDA (Muscular Dystrophy Association). Nita treated everyone like family, and loved to see couples that met at The Stage Stop grow into families and come back to visit. She was also a devoted mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, always doting on her babies, giving advice, and making sure everyone was taken care of and loved. You never left a visit with her without hearing, "Where's my hug?" With her husband by her side, with constant support until the end, she made her mark on Memphis music, and will always be remembered for her courage, strength, and unconditional love "at the top of the hill in Rockin' Raleigh."



## Obituary

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She was preceded in death by her Mother, Loys Daniel, her son, Ricky Buchanan, and her grandson, Joshua Buchanan. She is survived by her husband, Steve Makris; two children, John (Kim) Buchanan of Bartlett, Nina (Alicia Jackson) Makris of Memphis; six grandchildren, Ashley (James) Shea, Shelbi (Vincent Holmes) Petersen, Bradley Buchanan, Brianna Buchanan, Beau Buchanan, Mason Jackson; great grandchildren, Jaxon Shea, Tatum Holmes, Maddex Brown.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. on Sunday, April 14, with visitation 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. on Friday, April 12, both at Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery 5668 Poplar Avenue Memphis, TN 38119.



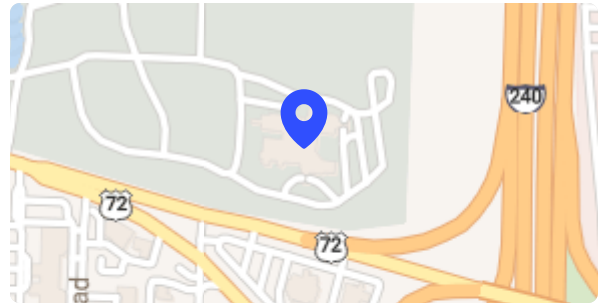
# Events

**Mary Juanita Makris**

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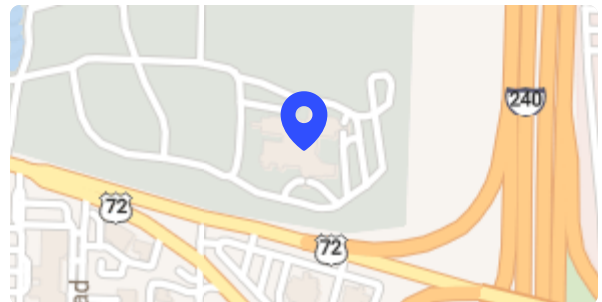
## Visitation

- 📅 **Friday, April 12, 2024**
- 🕒 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT
- 📍 **Memorial Park Funeral Home**  
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119



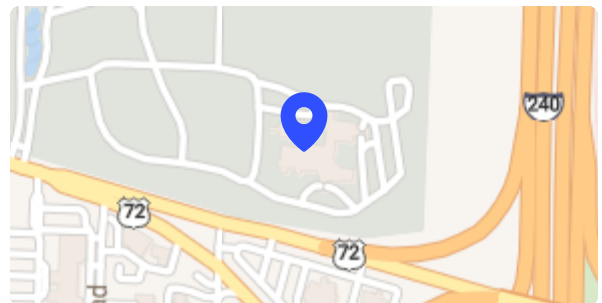
## Funeral Service

- 📅 **Sunday, April 14, 2024**
- 🕒 2:00 PM CT
- 📍 **Memorial Park Funeral Home**  
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119



## Cemetery Details

- 📍 **Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery**  
5668 Poplar Avenue, Memphis TN 38119





# Tribute Wall

**Mary Juanita Makris**

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**Jasmine Cain** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

We love and miss you Nita. You are a legend. Thank you for taking care of all of us kids that were just trying to play rock music.

July 6 at 8:12 PM



**Art (Arthur) Brette Clark Jr.** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

This is for All that are The Stage Stop 🍷👍👍

August 13 at 6:38 AM



**Art Clark Jr.** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

Art Clark Jr. lit a candle in memory of Mary Makris

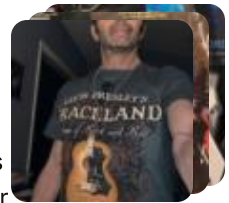
August 1 at 10:15 PM



**Art Clark Jr.** shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

There are not enough words to express my love and appreciation of "Mama Nita" I was born June 3, 1964 and spent more time at The Stage Stop than I can possibly remember for the many many memories I have there!!! All I know to do is to quote Joanna Dean from her first album that Nita, Precious Mama Nita, Had her hand in causing Joanna's first album to be made, ..."A Very Special Thank YOU To my family and friends For your love, patience and belief, I Love You" ❤️👍❤️👍

April 8 at 8:40 PM



**Janet Rowland Burke** posted:

I spent alot of time at stage stop and I worked there and I loved Nita she was great to work there and Rick was a great friend also I am very sorry for the family and my thoughts and prayers be with you God rest their souls

May 10 at 1:35 PM



## Tribute Wall

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TM

**Tiffany Lebel' Mitchell** sent a virtual gift in honor of Mary.

Much Love and gratitude always. Thank you, Ms Nita, for your kindness, wisdom and of course.. all the good times and memories.

April 12 at 1:52 PM



ES

**Employees A & B Body Shop** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Makris family.

April 12 at 11:28 AM



WS

**We Love You, Cary & Gabrielle Scarbrough** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

April 12 at 6:26 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Emerald Garden Basket to the Makris family.

April 12 at 6:26 AM



WB

**With Love, Mike And Carole Bowden** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

April 12 at 5:10 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Makris family.

April 12 at 5:10 AM





## Tribute Wall

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DI

**Dewayne Perry (Aka Insane)** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

April 11 at 1:35 PM



DI

**Dewayne Perry (Aka Insane)** sent a Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet to the Makris family.

April 11 at 1:35 PM



MP

**Michelle And Pamela** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

April 11 at 8:30 AM



MP

**Michelle And Pamela** sent a Treasured Lilies Spray to the Makris family.

April 11 at 8:30 AM



Anonymous

**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Makris family.

April 11 at 4:21 AM



KB

**Kevin Byrd** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

April 11 at 4:21 AM





## Tribute Wall

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**Will & Terri Simer** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

April 11 at 3:10 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Makris family.

April 11 at 3:10 AM



**Kenneth W.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

April 10 at 5:42 PM



**Jen Spaulding & Bryan Ashcraft** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

April 10 at 8:58 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Makris family.

April 10 at 8:58 AM



**Channa Boekhoff** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

April 9 at 3:34 PM





# Tribute Wall

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**Anonymous** sent a Dreams From the Heart Bouquet to the Makris family.

April 9 at 3:34 PM



**Ronnie Augustine** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

April 9 at 3:20 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the Makris family.

April 9 at 3:20 PM



**Cbu Lady Bucs** sent a Sentiments of Serenity Spray to the Makris family.

April 9 at 3:06 PM



**Brighton High School** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Makris family.

April 9 at 11:56 AM



**Greg And Yvette Taylor** sent a Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray to the Makris family.

April 9 at 11:42 AM





## Tribute Wall

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BT

**Bob Taylor** posted:

This lady was responsible for the livelihood of many musicians - Thanks for all you did, Nita - From all of us in the late 70s and early 80s - RIP, Rock On

April 9 at 11:32 AM

BT

**Bob Taylor** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

Bob Taylor lit a candle in memory of Mary Makris

April 9 at 11:28 AM



IS

**Inez Stock** posted:

She always loved all of the kids that came to stage stop I say kids because we were so young she will be forever missed

April 9 at 11:14 AM

MC

**Monica Carney** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

MONICA CARNEY lit a candle in memory of Mary Makris

April 9 at 10:04 AM



MC

**Monica Carney** posted:

I'll never forget the years I spent at Stage Stop! Nita: You were one-of-a-kind! RIP Nita and Slick Rick

April 9 at 10:03 AM

MC

**Matt Cain** posted:

Thank you for everything you've done for the Memphis music scene and for being the truest of friends to everyone that played music at Stage Stop, including myself. Your legacy will never be forgotten.--Matt "The Mysfit" Cain

April 8 at 8:40 PM



## Media

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Art (Arthur) Brette Clark Jr. shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 13 at 6:38 AM

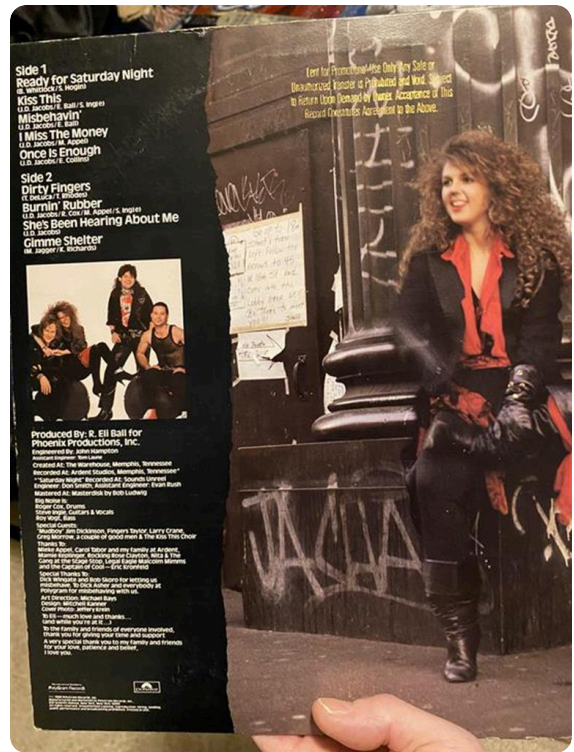




Art Clark Jr. shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 1 at 9:49 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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