



# Mary Elizabeth Black Cranford

FEB 1, 1941 - JUL 14, 2024



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MEMORIAL PARK  
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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# Mary Elizabeth Black Cranford

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**M**ary Elizabeth Black-Cranford, 83, of Germantown, took her last breath at home with family and friends by her side on July 14, 2024. Mary was born February 1, 1941, in Copperhill, Tennessee—the daughter of Jack B. Black and D. Leah Brown-Black.

Mary's life story reminds this author of Luke 10:25–37. The Parable of the Good Samaritan, her story.

Mary, the youngest of three children, was raised in Copperhill, a geological region on the Tennessee-Georgia border known as the Copper Basin, the site of a major copper mining operation. Life was challenging for the family, but Mary remembered her childhood with fondness and loved her life there. As a child, Mary was talkative and outgoing, embraced her family, and was admired for her strong faith, beauty, intelligence, quick wit, and sense of humor. As a teen, Mary moved to Marietta, GA, married in 1958, and began what was to be a lifetime of making the world a better place and leaving an enduring impression on all those she met.

Mary's faith was a constant in her life and defined her values and persona. As in her childhood, she was talkative and outgoing and championed her family. Over time, she proved strong and independent. Mary was a natural storyteller, often inspiring people using her beliefs and individual experiences to relate parables illustrating moral or spiritual truths. When Mary entered the room, her positive outlook on life and vibrancy energized those in attendance. She was conscientious, supportive, and charitable, serving people using every God-given gift she had.

Mary's family grew in 1964, welcoming their first child, a daughter, Julie, followed by sons Sid in 1969 and Justin in 1979. Her parenting philosophy was successful. Once again, she applied her natural gifts, resulting in many achievements for her children, educational milestones, business ownership, medical careers, expert craftsmen, fitness influencers, and rock stars. Mary developed passions for classical piano, country music, rock and roll, and horses ... all while balancing a career in sales, banking, accounting, financial, medical records, and Arabian horses.



## Obituary

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The defining moment in Mary's career was the opening of GermanTAN & Nails in 1985. Her earlier work experience gave her the skills necessary for success, combined with her positive outlook, communication skills, and ability to connect with customers, employees, and vendors. Mary influenced employees and their children, who frequented the shop, to open new businesses. A powerful tree grows strong branches and provides shade. To this day, those she touched tell stories of how Mary changed their lives, sometimes with a gracious smile and others with a heartfelt tear. After challenges and joyful years, Mary sold GermanTAN & Nails. Mary finally retired years later, making new friends at every stop she made.

Tragedy marred the last chapter of Mary's life. In November 2022, her longtime home was destroyed by fire. The financial burden and displacement took a toll on Mary mentally and physically. In February 2024, Mary had an extended hospitalization but was released into home hospice in May 2024. While in hospice, Mary fought bravely for her life and prayed for her children. Family and friends came to her aid to provide exceptional care and comfort during her time in hospice.

Mary walked the path of a Good Samaritan, she often quoted the golden rule of Luke 6:31: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you". As she walked the path of her savior, she honored us all.

Mary is reunited in heaven with her grandparents, her parents Jack and Leah Black, her sister Rheda Black-Godfrey, and her brother James Travis Black. Her beloved children and grandchildren survive Mary: her daughter Julie Louise Fletcher and her husband Scott of Germantown and their daughter Jordan; her

son Sid Fletcher and wife Jessica of Germantown and their children Truman, Grace, and Garris; her son Justin Cranford of Cordova and his children Evan and Casey. Her extended family members also survived Mary, including Lisa Cranford-Churchwell, her husband Gary of Chattanooga, and their children; Jay Cranford, his wife Susan, and their children and grandchildren; Micah Cranford-McMillan, and her daughter of Mountain Shasta, CA; and Andrew Cranford, his wife Karin, and their children of Huntsville, AL.

The family would like to thank Methodist Hospice Residence and Home Hospice for their generous support and service.



## Obituary

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The family has entrusted arrangements to Memorial Park Funeral Home, 5668 Poplar Ave., Memphis, TN 38120 they will host a Celebration of Life on August 17th, 2024 with visitation beginning at 1:00 p.m., and the service at 2:00 p.m. Guest speakers will share remembrances of Mary with Pastor George Estes presiding over services. Honorary urn-bearers will be Jay Cranford, Cathy Cochran-Weldon, and grandchildren.

Mary passionately gave to individuals, the community, and first responders in need. Friends are encouraged to donate to their favorite charity if memorial donations are preferred.





# Events


**Mary Elizabeth Black Cranford**

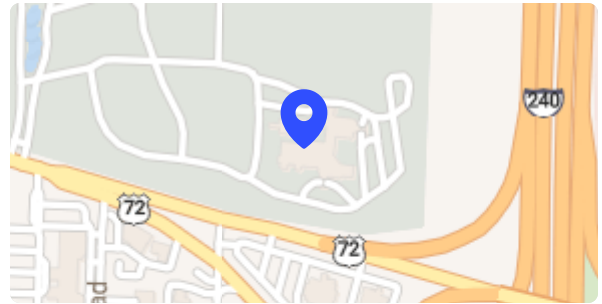
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## Visitation

 **Saturday**, August 17, 2024

 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM CT


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

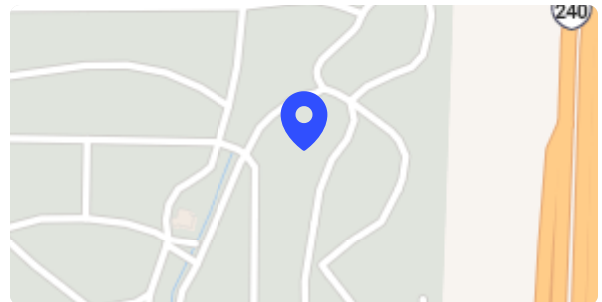


## Celebration of Life

 **Saturday**, August 17, 2024

 2:00 PM CT

 **Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery**  
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119





## Tribute Wall

**Mary Elizabeth Black Cranford**

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VG

**Virginia Maier Gallenbeck** posted:

Best friend I ever had-her love was true and she was loyal. She was easy to love-she was love ❤️.

August 18 at 6:37 AM

TK

**Traci Adcock, Craig Wilkerson And Kids** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.



August 16 at 12:04 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Serene Retreat to the Cranford family.



August 16 at 12:04 PM

MR

**Micah Ree** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Cranford family.



August 16 at 6:14 AM

AR

**All Of My Love, Anita Rogers** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.



August 15 at 7:51 PM

AR

**All Of My Love, Anita Rogers** sent a Pink Potpourri Bouquet to the Cranford family.



August 15 at 7:51 PM



## Tribute Wall

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BG

**Bath And Tim, Farist And The Girls** sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Cranford family.

August 15 at 3:36 PM



BG

**Bath And Tim, Farist And The Girls** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

August 15 at 3:36 PM



LD

**Lisa D.** sent a Large Basket Garden to the Cranford family.

August 15 at 10:24 AM



MM

**Much Love, Jo Ann & Mike** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.

August 15 at 5:47 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Cranford family.

August 15 at 5:47 AM



KD

**Kenan Clinton, Theresa, And Dakota** sent a Sweet Tranquility Basket to the Cranford family.

August 13 at 6:43 AM





## Tribute Wall

**Mary Elizabeth Black Cranford**

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**Shelley Norton** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Mary.



August 12 at 3:02 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Blue Caribbean Bouquet to the Cranford family.



August 12 at 3:02 PM



**Julie** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

My mom



August 10 at 6:14 PM



**Linda Schratz** shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Oct.21st, 2017. We made such great memories together! Beautiful Lady (inside and out!) Love you Mary and will miss you for now! I know I will see you again in a much better place!



July 29 at 8:58 AM



**Scott Maxey** posted:

What a Beautiful Sweet Lady, first time I met her I thought she was Julies sister, Always remember that beautiful smile, May God comfort you forever

August 6 at 10:41 AM




## Tribute Wall

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**Lara Diaz** posted:

I worked For Mary as her Massage T herapist for 11 years at GermanTan & Nails. Yes She sold the business but I always saw her as my Boss. She was more than a Boss to me but treated me like a Mother I never had. She was always kind and thoughtful and Mary never knew a stranger. Everyone loved her including my Whole Family!!! She will always have a very Special Place in My .

August 3 at 6:06 PM



**Mimi Griffith** posted:

Mary was an amazing human being. She was a kind and giving person. If someone was in need, she was always there to help. Everyone loved her. She will certainly be missed.Mimi Griffith

August 1 at 9:05 AM



**Julie Fletcher** August 1 at 2:44 PM

Thank you Mimi, Janis and Nancy for posting. Denyce I think you posted too but it's not on here yet. I wish the celebration for my mom's life could be a pajama party. That's what she would have wanted. For no one to be sad, be comfortable, have fun and above all no stress.



# Tribute Wall

## Mary Elizabeth Black Cranford

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**Janis Talbot** posted:

Mary was a beautiful soul... I loved her and her family. I worked at Germantan and nails for years and quickly knew Mary was a special lady and felt part of the family instantly. I would have to say working with Mary was the best time of my life. She made us all feel like we the best manicurist in the world. Well we were the best in Germantown anyways!! My favorite memories were our famous pajamas Christmas parties !! Actually, there were many many great memories. Mary was a special lady. And she will be missed by all that she touched.

July 30 at 7:39 PM



**Phyllis Vincent** August 10 at 2:57 PM

I met Mary when I started going to Germantown Nails can't remember the year but it was great and I still have both both the Hair Dresser Lisa Cox and the Manicurist Virginia When I met Mary we hit it off immediately We both liked the same clothes and she worked with Graham and Suzzane Burke doing shows in many states but Mary handled the clothes at Germantown Nails I never left the shop without something new She was a wonderful Lady and I am so sorry I didn't get to see her before she went to a much better, peaceful place where there is no pain or Tears God bless you Mary. I can't attend the Memorial Service because I'm still oconfined to my home and on 24 hr oxygen. I'm so sorry I can't be there but I plan to donate to the Missionaries Fund at my Germantown Church of Christ. I loved Mary and I love her daughter Julie who was devoted to her Mother. GOD BLESS YOU BOTH.Phyllis□□□□□



**Nancy** posted:

Mary was always known for a smile on her face and a fun precious person to be around. I will miss her. Nancy Jackson

July 29 at 8:58 AM



**Julie Fletcher** July 31 at 2:10 PM

Words can't express the hole in my heart. She always knew what to say and how to help people resolve a problem. Would really love to hear her laugh..... what a wonderful laugh.



## Media

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Julie shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 10 at 6:14 PM





Linda Schratz shared 3 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 7 at 3:41 AM

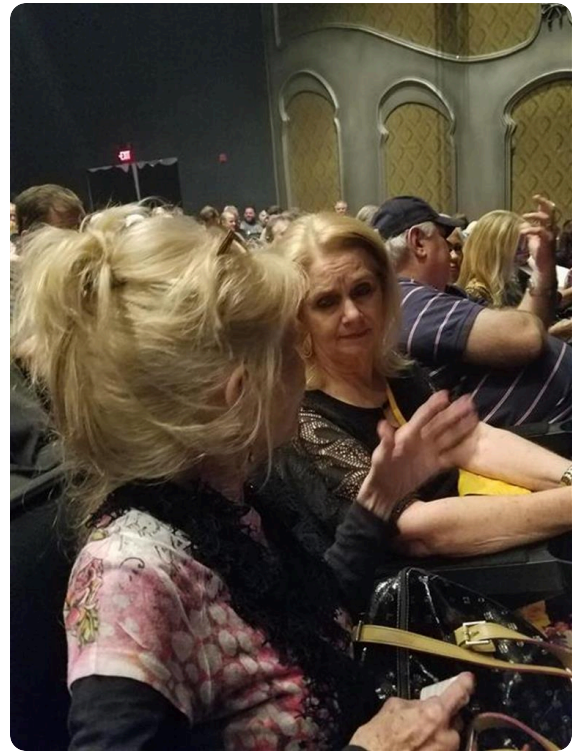




**Media**

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

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



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