



Charlotte Winford Zehring

FEB 9, 1955 - JUL 21, 2025



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MEMORIAL PARK
Funeral Home & Cemetery

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Charlotte Winford Zehring

FEB 9, 1955 - JUL 21, 2025

Charlotte Winford Zehring, passed into eternity on July 21, 2025, at home, with her family by her side after being diagnosed with brain cancer in December 2024. Born February 9, 1955 in Wayne County TN, Charlotte was the embodiment of grace and love from the very beginning. Charlottes's legacy is one of a servant's heart with a smile, grace, and the enduring mark she left on every life she touched. She is preceded in death by her parents, Tom and Christine Winford, her stepdaughter, Kelsey Zehring and father-in-law Ralph Zehring. Charlotte is survived by her husband, Kyle Zehring and mother-in-law Sandy Zehring of Memphis, TN; a sister, Margaret Winford Coffman and husband Larry (deceased) of Las Vegas, NV; two brothers Tom Winford and wife Diane of Cape Coral, FL and Frank Winford and wife Beth of Horseshoe Bay, TX; and eight nieces and nephews: Krystal, FW, Miles, Kirbi, Thomas, Allison, Hannah and Spencer. Additionally, she had many cousins who were so special to her.

Charlotte, a long-time Memphis resident, graduated from Lausanne School in 1973. She furthered her education at Queens College in Charlotte, NC and Southwestern at Memphis, now known as Rhodes College where she earned her BA degree.

She received her MS degree in Education from Memphis State University in 1983. Her teaching, coaching, and counseling spanned a total of 43 years at both Lausanne and ending with St. Mary's Episcopal School from which she retired in 2019. Charlotte was recognized with numerous awards during her career at St. Mary's School and most notably two national awards: Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation 2007 Joseph B. Whitehead Educator of Distinction Award and the 2011 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program Teacher Recognition Award in Washington, DC. She was a true teaching professional with a love of learning and the ability to connect with her students in a very special way.



Obituary

Charlotte Winford Zehring

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Services will be at Mission Church, 6000 Briarcrest Ave in Memphis at 11:00 AM Saturday, August 2 with visitation from 9:30 to 11:00 AM.

As we prepare to celebrate Charlotte's extraordinary life, the family graciously requests that donations in her memory be made to St. Mary's Episcopal School in memory of Charlotte Winford Zehring. The school was so close to her heart. Its address is 60 Perkins EXT, Memphis TN 38117. Charlotte's light will forever illuminate the paths of those who were blessed to know her.



Events


Charlotte Winford Zehring

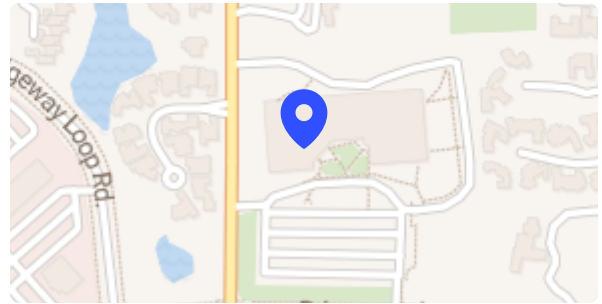
FEB 9, 1955 - JUL 21, 2025

Visitation

 **Saturday**, August 2, 2025

 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM CT


 **Mission Church**
6000 Briarcrest Ave, Memphis TN 38120

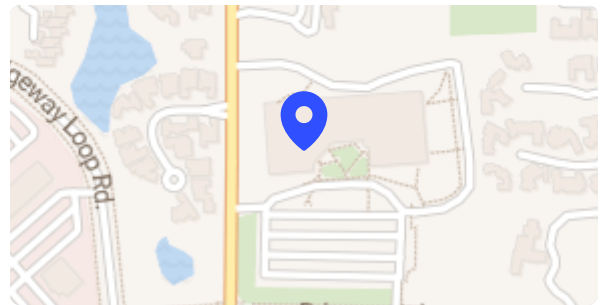


Funeral Service

 **Saturday**, August 2, 2025


 11:00 AM CT

 **Mission Church**
6000 Briarcrest Ave, Memphis TN 38120

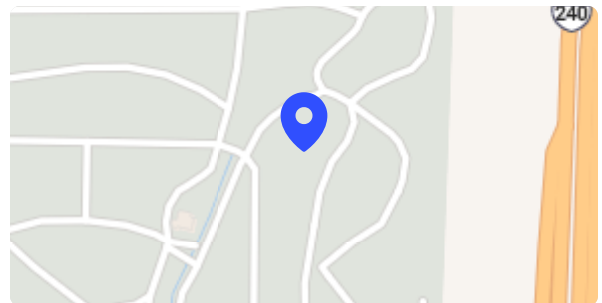


Burial

 **Saturday**, August 2, 2025

 12:30 PM CT

 **Memorial Park Cemetery**
5668 Poplar Ave, Memphis TN 38119





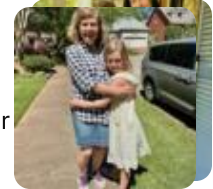
Tribute Wall

Charlotte Winford Zehring

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Brittany Blockman shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.



I first came to know Mrs. Zehring as my whip-smart, eloquent, and humorous 7th grade literature teacher at St. Mary's who brought the depths of written text to life for us and helped inspire my love for literature, poetry, and writing. Beyond being a passionate, devoted teacher whose class was on par with the depths of the best college courses, she had a big heart for her students, and her door was always open to us. Through the years, Mrs. Zehring became so much more than just a teacher to me: a loving, comforting presence who supported me through the illness and loss of my mother to cancer while at was a student at St. Mary's; an admired life mentor; a second mother to me after I lost my own; and one of the most impactful people in my life. Mrs. Zehring is one of the most extraordinary human beings I have known — a true soul friend not only to me, but to countless others. She went above and beyond to care for others and connect deeply in a way that made those around her feel seen and understood. I was always in awe of the insight, clarity, depth, and kindness she brought to every moment. I knew from a young age that she was someone I always wanted to know and fortunately, our connection continued beyond my St. Mary's days. Every visit back to Memphis always entailed a joyful visit with her and more recently, she came to know my children, who also adored her. Mrs. Zehring was a model of resilience to me, as she overcame and pushed forward in life despite personal tragedy and loss. I know I wouldn't be the person I am today without her care, wisdom, and exemplary manner of being of in the world. People have often asked me how I didn't fall apart when I lost my mom at such a formative age. I always answer that I had some amazing adults around me holding me up — special people (many of them St. Mary's teachers) who went out of their way to help me when they didn't have to and when it wasn't necessarily convenient. Mrs. Zehring was one of those people. I am still amazed by the support she (and others) extended to me during such a difficult time. I hope that my own children will be so fortunate to have deep connections with teachers like Mrs. Zehring someday. Mrs. Zehring: You have been an earthly guardian angel to me and made me feel less alone in a difficult time in my young life and beyond. I feel blessed at crossing paths with you in the physical realm and will miss everything about you – your warm and loving presence, your smile, your kind voice, your hugs, your sense of humor and laugh, your soulful eyes, your deep goodness, your profound wisdom. Your influence, love, and inspiration knows no bounds and you will be amongst us reverberating infinitely. I know that I and all who were connected to you on this earth will eternally continue to feel your loving spirit and be inspired by you. We are with you always. I know our bond is unbreakable. Sending love, light, peace, and healing to all of Charlotte's cherished family, friends, and all of the SMS community. With deep admiration, gratitude, and eternal love for you Mrs. Zehring, Brittany Blockman (SMS '99)

August 1 at 7:42 PM



The Nicoll's And Winfield's sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Zehring family.



August 1 at 2:56 PM



Tribute Wall

Charlotte Winford Zehring

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The Nicoll's And Winfield's planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Charlotte.

August 1 at 2:56 PM



Scott & Mickie Carter sent a Serene Retreat to the Zehring family.

August 1 at 10:32 AM



Anonymous sent a Days of Sunshine Bouquet to the Zehring family.

July 29 at 10:37 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Charlotte.

July 29 at 10:37 PM



Kathryn Edwards posted:

I was lucky enough to have Mrs. Z not only as my 7th grade English teacher at SMS but also as my cross country coach and next door neighbor. She had such an impact in my life, especially in middle school when her encouragement and support helped me get through a challenging time, but also as an adult with her ongoing interest in my life. Her energy in the classroom and love for her students was unmatched. I still remember her teaching her favorite book, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and my love for reading and writing was certainly inspired by her. I know she will be greatly missed by many, but her impact and memory will live on through all of us whom she shaped and touched over the years.

July 27 at 1:39 PM



Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Zehring family.



July 27 at 1:26 PM



Anonymous planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Charlotte.



July 27 at 1:26 PM



Kenthia Hemmingway posted:

Her always being kind to me and telling me I'm very good at my job. And I would always tell her I love my job and she would say it shows. Mrs.Kenthia Hemmingway

July 27 at 1:08 PM



Anonymous sent a Vivid Recollections to the Zehring family.



July 26 at 7:53 PM



Kat Scorer posted:

There are no words to describe the depth of Charlotte's grace. Our family were lucky enough to have Charlotte and Kyle as our Mother Dodie's neighbour. Over the years she became part of our family and a great friend to Dodie who's waiting for her in heaven. I will always remember her kindness, how she always welcomed us when we came into town, her sweet smile and infectious laugh. I will forever be grateful for the care and love she showed Dodie, whose life was greatly enriched for knowing her. I will keep her in my heart as an example of unconditional love.

July 26 at 3:39 AM



Tribute Wall

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NJ

Natalie Jacewicz posted:

Mrs. Zehring was a legendary teacher at SMS. She excavated the symbolism of novels, short stories, and poetry in a way that challenged and inspired us. Though I didn't know it at the time, her seventh grade Literature class was effectively my first college course. She achieved this rigor while maintaining a kindness that put all of us at ease. She left no student behind. I should know, because although I was a strong student, I was a completely mediocre cross-country runner. But whether in the classroom or at Shelby Farms, Mrs. Z was a reliable cheerleader. I am now a professor, and if on any given day one of my classes comes close to hers, that's a victory. I know she will live on in the memories of all of her students.

July 25 at 10:51 PM

KS

Kristen Stieg posted:

Mrs. Zehring was my favorite teacher and cross country coach growing up. She was so kind and loving during some of my most fragile, difficult years. I'm sad to hear of her passing and look forward to hugging her in Heaven one day. Love, Kristen Schropp Stieg

July 25 at 9:04 PM

KD

Kathryn Derossitt posted:

Funny and always with great advice, Ms. Zehring made every class fun and educational. For some reason, I have a very specific memory of her. At the time she was teaching our class, a lot of construction was going on at SMS - in the parking lot behind the bridge. The school has change SO MUCH since the early 90s, that I can't place exactly what construction this was. Anyway, I remember her being exasperated but amused that our classes were constantly punctuated by a truck backing up and making the noise, "BEEP BEEP BEEP." She was also my cross country coach in 8th grade, and I really missed her after the coaching staff changed when I was in 9th grade. She made cross country FUN and she always brought HERSHEY'S MINIATURES for us to have a little "boost" before we went running. I STILL HAVE workouts she gave us to do on the weekends. I am so sorry I have not seen her in so long. I also remember her teaching us "To Kill a Mockingbird." I know that many will NEVER forget her distinctive handwriting on the chalkboard. Thank you for the memories! Love, Kathryn Leigh DeRossitt '94

July 25 at 5:26 PM



Media

Charlotte Winford Zehring

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Brittany Blockman shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

August 1 at 7:42 PM





Memories only last if you share them

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



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