



Marilyn R. McGriff

September 6, 1934 - July 16, 2025

Marilyn R. McGriff (Schacht) passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 16th, at the age of 90. She was preceded in eternal life by her beloved husband, Patrick T. McGriff (2016); her parents, Dr. Roland and Helen (Allman) Schacht; and her brother, Roland John Schacht, Jr.

She is survived by her sister, Kathryn “Peg” McCausland; her two children, daughter Stacia Skinner (Steven) and son Patrick McGriff III (Lois); her two grandchildren, Brendan Skinner (Amie) and Colin Skinner; and her great-granddaughter, Fiona Skinner.

A graduate of Northwestern University and a member of the Chi Omega sorority, Marilyn’s life passion was music. She spent most of her career as a music teacher at Atwater Elementary School in Shorewood, WI, where her school concerts were known to be “standing room only” and often moved to the local high school to accommodate the large audiences. Broadway star Kate Baldwin credited Marilyn’s influence, saying, “Marilyn McGriff at Atwater grade school got me started.”

A gifted pianist, Marilyn played nearly every day of her life. She was a visionary in music education and a dedicated supporter of the arts. She was deeply involved with PianoArts in Milwaukee, WI, the North American Competition and Music Festival, and was a founding board member and sole contributor to the Audience Communication Award.

Marilyn traveled the world, possessed exceptional talent, and cherished time with her family and friends. Where words fail, music speaks - and Marilyn

spoke fluently through her music.

A celebration of her life will be held at a later date in Easton, Maryland. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made online to PianoArts.org (<https://pianoarts.org/donation-page/>) or to the Talbot Hospice Foundation (<https://talbothospice.org/donate/>), 586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, MD 21601.

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Marilyn R. McGriff*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - September 20, 2025 at 03:42 PM

LR

“ *I grew up with the McGriff family and one of my earliest memories is of "Mrs. Stacie's Mom." She embraced a full life, and among many sweet memories is the annual Wassail party at Christmas time, house full of friends and neighbors, sustenance, and music. She was a classy lady who loved to laugh as much as play her beloved piano. In turn she was loved and cared for by her dear family; I happily witnessed this love on a visit just last year. Thank you Stacie, for all the sharing of your family with me over the years. I send much love and gratitude to you and yours.*
Laura Rooney

Laura Rooney - August 21, 2025 at 07:08 PM

ED

“ *Marilyn McGriff was one of those generational teachers. She conveyed a love for music that carried beyond music class to a lifetime appreciation of classical music for me. I remember running into her at Chicago Symphony concerts in Milwaukee and thanking her for everything she taught me as an elementary school student.*

Edward David - August 03, 2025 at 08:19 PM

WT

“ Walter Thomas lit a candle in memory of Marilyn R. McGriff



Walter Thomas - July 31, 2025 at 11:59 AM

WT

“ Mrs McGriff it was always a pleasure to see you and speak with ever since you started to come to the TWI. You always had a pleasant smile when you walked through the door. I remember singing Happy Birthday to you what a joy 😊. Heaven has received another Angel . Rest well in the arms of the Most High until we meet again
Your Friend Walter

Walter Thomas - July 31, 2025 at 11:35 AM

KT

“ I have so many fond memories of Marilyn during her time at Queenstown Landing! She loved to go out for ice cream, answer trivia questions, drink her vodka & tonic at happy hour, and play her beautiful music for all of our residents. Sending prayers to all of Marilyn’s friends & family ❤️



Kirstie Thomas - July 26, 2025 at 12:32 PM

SS

Thank you for your kind words and the great pictures. She was a spit fire and had a smile that would brighten up a room!

Stacia Skinner - July 27, 2025 at 09:05 AM

RK

Spit fire says it just right! That smile and the wit and mischief behind her eyes was unmistakable.

Rebecca Kennedy - July 31, 2025 at 01:32 PM

JE

What a wonderful woman! She was a wonderful neighbor and always a joy to see when I walked my dog. The entire neighborhood misses Marilyn and our prayers go out to her family.

Jeff Champion, President EVHOA - August 02, 2025 at 11:41 AM

DW

Marilyn was my neighbor for many years. She was an amazing pianist and would occasionally come over to play our vintage Steinway baby grand which she pronounced wonderful if badly out of tune. I fondly remember a dinner party we had for neighbors at which we all ended up around the piano singing show tunes. Few of us could actually carry a tune, but it was great fun with Marilyn at the center of the festivities. RIP dear Marilyn. I'm sure you're playing for the angels now. Dorothy Whitcomb

Dorothy Whitcomb - August 02, 2025 at 02:45 PM

JK

I have never wavered when asked who was my favorite teacher of all time. Mrs. McGriff! We were so lucky to have her at Atwater. She really taught music not just music appreciation. Kodaly. Solfege. We played the Orff instruments. I will never forget her and will toast her on my 60th bday on Wed. She was the best.

Jane Kramer - August 03, 2025 at 05:21 PM

PC

“ I am a neighbor of Stacia and got to know Marilyn a few years ago. I fell in love with her immediately and she took me in as family. Marilyn was the sweetest lady, totally full of class. She is definitely in a better place but her passing will leave heavy hearts for everyone she came in contact with. Prayers for her entire family.
Peg and Frank Candore

Peggy Candore - July 18, 2025 at 09:00 AM

SS

Peggy thank you so much for your kind words. It leaves us with heavy hearts but we know she is in a better place.

Stacia Skinner - July 27, 2025 at 09:06 AM