



Mary Elizabeth Gardner

December 22, 1948 - August 5, 2026

Mary Elizabeth Gardner

December 22, 1948 – August 5, 2026

Mary Elizabeth Gardner, lovingly known to family and friends as “Mary Beth” or “Betts”, passed away peacefully at her home in Centreville, Maryland, on August 5, 2026, surrounded by the love of her family. She was 77 years old.

Born on December 22, 1948, Mary was the beloved daughter of the late Charles and Lois Muntain. She was also preceded in death by her devoted husband of 55 years, Melvin Gardner Jr.; her sister, Miriam Retkofsky; and her brother, Michael Muntain.

Mary leaves behind a family who was the center of her world. She is survived by her daughter, Angela Holocker and her husband, Bryan, of Centreville; and her son, Michael Gardner of Stevensville. She was immensely proud of her 4 grandchildren, Zachary Holocker (Kristen), Kelley Holocker (Austin), Maura Hopkins (Ethan), and Michael Gardner. Her greatest delight in recent years was becoming a great grandmother to Charlie Holocker and Nellie Hopkins. Known to her grandchildren as “Ninna,” she could be heard telling stories about her grandchildren, who brought endless joy and laughter, to anyone who would listen. She is also survived by her brother, Wayne Muntain; her sisters, Karen Dize (Ben) and Kathleen Bahun (Frank); along with many

beloved nieces, nephews, extended family members.

Mary dedicated much of her professional life to serving others. She worked in admissions at several nursing facilities throughout Maryland, where her kindness and empathy brought comfort to countless families during difficult times. She also served as a Volunteer Coordinator with Chester River Home Care & Hospice, a role that reflected her compassionate heart and deep commitment to caring for others with dignity and grace.

Outside of her work, Mary found peace in tending her many beautiful gardens, creating beautiful quilts that became treasured family heirlooms, playing the piano, and losing herself in a good book. She loved family gatherings and some of her happiest memories were made walking the beaches of Sanibel Island with her husband, collecting seashells while enjoying the beauty of the Gulf. She also had a special place in her heart for her beloved Boxers—Rocky, Annie, and Ginger—whose loyal companionship brought her much happiness.

More than anything, Mary will be remembered for teaching those around her the importance of family, loyalty, perseverance, and finding joy in everyday moments. Her legacy lives on in the lives she touched, the traditions she created, and her family.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate caregivers of Comfort Keepers and Compass Regional Hospice for the exceptional care, comfort, and support they provided during Mary's final journey.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Mary's memory to Compass Regional Hospice, Centreville, Maryland.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Mary's life at a Mass of Christian

Burial on Saturday, August 22, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church in Centreville, Maryland. Interment will follow at Holy Family Catholic Cemetery in Church Hill, Maryland. The Rite of Committal at the cemetery will be reserved for family members.

Cemetery Details

Holy Family Cemetery

Buzzard Lane
Church Hill, MD

Previous Events

Catholic Funeral Mass

AUG **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church
301 Homewood Avenue
Centreville, MD 21617

Tribute Wall

MG

“Mike and Lisa Guacci purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary Elizabeth Gardner.



Mike and Lisa Guacci - August 17 at 08:35 PM

BE

“I had the pleasure of working with Mary Beth for a long time when she was the Volunteer Coordinator at Chester River Home Care & Hospice. She was a beautiful lovely lady inside and out. Always enjoyed talking to her. Hearing her laugh. Her contagious smile. But also saw her in sad times. I know she's rejoicing in heaven with the love of her life. Prayers to the family may you always keep her memories alive.
Betty Jo Embert



BettyJo Embert - August 12 at 11:06 AM

CM

“Your mom was always so kind to me - letting me hang out at your house. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Carol Ann McCurdy - August 10 at 04:26 PM

CC

“ *Cathy Crew lit a candle in memory of Mary Elizabeth Gardner*



Cathy Crew - August 08 at 04:01 PM

JT

“ *Mike,
I worked with your Mom at Fairfield Nsg Home in Crownsville in the early 80's.(she actually use to do my hair) She was as sweet and always had time to talk. Then years later I joined the Baltimore County Volunteer Fire Department and worked with you on calls. Small world Capt. Again I'm sorry for the loss of Mary Beth.*

Jen Taylor-Oxyer - August 07 at 08:48 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary Elizabeth Gardner.*



August 07 at 07:48 PM

GP

“ *Gene And Lynda Palmatary sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Elizabeth Gardner*



Gene and Lynda Palmatary - August 07 at 07:03 PM

GP

Mary Beth was a great friend. She was so kind to my dad and mom when they were in Corsica Hills. My mother volunteered at Corsica and she would have the best time with her and Jennifer Duncan. Many great memories. Prayers and blessings to the family at this time. Mary Beth will never be forgotten for her love the others. Blessings. Lynda H. Palmatary, Centreville.

Gene and Lynda Palmatary - August 07 at 07:07 PM

SA

“ STMS Staff and Admin purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mary Elizabeth Gardner.



STMS Staff and Admin - August 07 at 01:00 PM

CS

“ I worked with Mary Ellen for many years at Corsica Hills, she was always kind, helpful and a joy to be around. She will be missed by so many of us who were blessed to work with her.



Cheryl “Sherri” Szczechura - August 06 at 07:01 PM

BW

“ Barb Wyman lit a candle in memory of Mary Elizabeth Gardner



Barb Wyman - August 05 at 06:39 PM

BC

So sorry. I worked with Mary Beth at Corsica Hills and she was a very caring person. Just talked to her a couple of weeks ago.
Barbara Cherry

Barbara Cherry - August 07 at 09:55 AM