



## Mary Linda Flatness

July 23, 1942 - September 27, 2020

Mary L. Flatness, age 78, of Dixon was called home, to join her Lord and Savior in Heaven, on Sunday Sept. 27, 2020 at the Citadel of Sterling. She was born July 23, 1942 in Sterling, the daughter of Verdun and Marion (Hult) Randolph. Mary received her Bachelor of Science degree from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale and did additional post graduate education throughout her career.

She was a Junior High/Middle School English teacher and Principal for the Minooka, IL school district. She was also was the sponsor for the Drama and Speech Clubs. After retiring she became a Methodist minister, most recently serving a congregation in Milledgeville.

She was a member of Grace United Methodist Church in Dixon and served on the board of the homeless shelter. She was a voracious reader and always had several novels on her kindle. She celebrated the art of letter-writing and was adored by family and friends for never missing an occasion to send special greeting cards by the hundreds each year.

Mary wed the love of her life, Gerald Flatness, on July 10, 1965 and he preceded her in death July 10, 1995. During their 30 years of marriage they enjoyed travel, fishing, and hosted numerous family celebrations. She was also preceded in death by her parents.

Mary is survived by her 6 step-children, Keith (Debbie) Flatness, Melode Galbreath, Connie (Jim) Kloiber, Larry (Sandy Elder) Flatness, Gail Flatness and Jeff (JoLynne) Flatness, 16 grandchildren, 40 great grandchildren, and 3

great-great grandchildren. She is also survived by her step-mother Shirley Randolph of Chatham, IL, two sisters Sally (Mike) Jackson of Cape Coral, FL, Jo (Rusty) Randolph Jones of Missoula, Mt., one brother Tim (Bertha) Randolph of The Villages, FL and several nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Friday Oct. 2, 2020 11:30 AM at the Jones Funeral Home in Dixon with Pastor Marilyn Nolan officiating. Burial of cremains will be 3:30 PM at Seward Mound Cemetery in Minooka. Visitation will be held Thursday Oct. 1, 2020 from 2:00 to 4:00 PM. Face coverings are required for visitation and service.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 1. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon  
204 South Ottawa  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Ph: 815-288-2241  
info@thejonesfh.com  
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

## Service

OCT 2. 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Jones Funeral Home, Dixon  
204 South Ottawa  
Dixon, IL 61021  
Ph: 815-288-2241  
info@thejonesfh.com  
<https://www.thejonesfh.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Linda Flatness*

October 08, 2023 at 11:30 AM



“ *Mary Linda Flatness*

December 31, 2022 at 02:40 AM



“ *Mrs. Flatness. My seventh and eighth grade language teacher. How sad I am that I missed the opportunity to thank you for the impact you had on my life. It wasn't for lack of trying, but who would have thought to enlist the aid of retired teachers to find a retired teacher? I love language and reading and no longer despise giving speeches--yes, I am projecting my voice and making eye contact with my audience. Diagramming sentences is a lost art. None of my children or grandchildren experienced that, but I still do it at times to check my sentence structure. I still write thanks to all of your encouragement; the written and verbal comments you gave me as a teenager spur me on. I've written for my church, magazines, Chicken Soup for the Soul, and even published a book. Thank you for the jumpstart. I shall touch base in heaven, but for now I will thank God that He blessed me with a teacher who shared her passion with me.*

*Deborah (Smith) Young*

**Deborah Young** - September 04, 2021 at 10:05 AM

LB

“ *Mary was a kind and caring friend. She was a great hostess. She welcomed visitors and meeting attendees. She loved game playing. She will be missed. Lois Bartelt*

Lois Bartelt - October 23, 2020 at 02:48 PM



“ *I enjoyed working with Mary while she and I were pastors in the Milledgeville area. My condolences to her family. Polly Klimson*

Polly Klimson - October 23, 2020 at 01:19 PM

DJ

“ *Deepest sympathies to Mary's family.*

Diane (Wildey) Johnson - October 02, 2020 at 11:56 AM

DL

“ *You were my best teacher ever and by a wide margin, Mrs. Flatness. Enjoy heaven. I'll be right here, reading a book after you instilled my love of reading deep inside my soul. ❤️ Dan Ledwig*

Daniel Ledwig - October 01, 2020 at 05:37 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Mary Linda Flatness.*



October 01, 2020 at 04:18 PM

MR

“ Our 3 children had Mary for 8th grade English, and they praised her on their ability to “conjugate verbs, diagram sentences, and such” in college courses. Good English teacher!  
Mary was a dear friend who kept in touch by sending cards and letters. I will miss her!

-----  
**Marcia Ritenour** - October 01, 2020 at 03:02 PM

BB

“ My deepest sympathy. I have many wonderful memories of Mary and her dedication to her speech contest students. I always enjoyed coaching and judging contests as I knew Mary would be there. It was an honor to know her. Bill Benoit

-----  
**Bill Benoit** - October 01, 2020 at 11:39 AM

AR

“ Mary was such a beautiful, loving and caring friend...she was a great lady that always would listen to you if you needed to talk, she would always put others first, asking all about my life on what was going on and such, sending cards/letters and phone calls...you will be missed here on Earth but I will see you in Heaven. Prayers go out to her family that God will comfort them and give them peace.

-----  
**Angela Reigle** - September 30, 2020 at 11:00 PM

RD

“ Sending our thoughts and prayers to the Flatness family. Mary was a beloved patient. She will be missed. - Doctor Clayton & Polo Dental Staff



-----  
**Ryan W Clayton, DMD** - September 30, 2020 at 01:21 PM

MR

*Was Gladys Clayton your grandmother? She was a dear friend of my Mother-in-law, "Tee" Ritenour's, who I took to Polo for a 2-day visit at Gladys' each Spring. They met when Mr. Clayton was principal at Milford High, late 1940s. Small world.*

---

**Marcia Ritenour** - October 01, 2020 at 03:18 PM