



Mary Anne Steele

December 22, 1938 - April 19, 2009

On Sunday (April 19, 2009) Mary Anne Cheffer Steele met her Lord and Savior face to face. Those she has left behind will remember her devotion to her Lord, family, and students. She started her teaching career in 1960 after graduating from Wheaton College and continued to serve the students of this area until she became ill, having influenced thousands of lives over those years. She was recognized for 25 years of teaching at Kankakee Community College. She was a lifelong resident of rural St. Anne, the daughter of Albert and Iza Soucie Cheffer. Her parents are deceased. She married her husband, Wilbur F. Steele, in July 1961. He preceded her in death in 1993. She leaves behind two sons and daughters-in-law, Thomas and Janice Steele of St. Anne and Michael and Lisa Steele of Bradley. She also leaves six dearly loved grandchildren, Stephanie, Kimberly, Kristina, Jennifer, Benjamin and Joshua Steele as well as many cousins, sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law; and nieces and nephews. Visitation will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee, and from 9 a.m. Thursday at Immanuel Baptist Church, Kankakee, until the 10 a.m. services. Burial will be in Mount Airy Cemetery, Momence. Memorials may be made to her grandchildren's education or to the Bible Witness Camp.

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album *Tribute Album*



Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:56 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to Tom, Mike and their families. Your mother and father were a blessing to so many people. I will always remember your mother because she was not only a compassionate teacher, but she gave me the gift of the joy of reading. Your parents always inspired others not only to serve the Lord but to be life long learners. I pray you will find comfort and peace during this time.##imported-begin##Julie Leidecker##imported-end##*

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“ *Mary Anne was a very kind and loving person and I know you will miss her terrible. i½I'm sure she is at peace with the Lord and now reunited with Wilbur. i½My thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Marianne Dyon##imported-end##*

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“ Hi Tom,

We wish to extend to you and your family our deepest sympathy on your loss. $\frac{1}{2}$ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

##imported-begin##Judy Mann##imported-end##

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“ Mary Anne loves her Savior and served her family and students with the grace she received from Him. $\frac{1}{2}$ As previously shared: "God keeps you, Mary Anne, and we will meet again." $\frac{1}{2}$ ##imported-begin##Penelope Stickney##imported-end##

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“ Hi,

My prayers and condolences are with you all. I visited her up on 4th last time I saw that she was in the hospital. She was always very nice to me when I took care of her, as were all of you. You all brightened my work day when you visited her. Thank you for our courage and your laughter during her illness.

Michaela##imported-begin##Michaela Lieb##imported-end##

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“ I've known Mary Anne since the 70's when Wilbur was principal of GBA. ĩ½They were both so helpful to our boys, Joel and Tim. ĩ½But I was just getting to know her better as she, Joan McCorkle, Deanna Prairie and I would have an occasional lunch together. ĩ½Our friendship was developing further as we traded e-mails...prayer requests, etc. ĩ½Then she got sick again. ĩ½She kept me informed and I prayed for her. ĩ½I will miss her very much. ĩ½I will never forget her contagious laugh. ĩ½But I know I will see her again someday. ĩ½Our prayers will continue for her family.##imported-begin##Audrey Prairie##imported-end##

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“ Darlene was secretary to Wilbur Steele at Grace Baptist Academy for several years. Mary Anne was a teacher there, as well. ĩ½She was so much fun to be around, and we have many happy memories of those years.

Our deepest condolences to Tom & Mike Steele and all their families. ĩ½What a joy to know that Mary Anne's suffering is over and she is at peace in the presence of her Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.##imported-begin##Bill & Darlene Cooke##imported-end##

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“ sorry for your loss##imported-begin##Cheryl Clement##imported-end##

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“ To Mike, Tom and families,
Very sorry to hear about your mother. I know exactly how you must feel. My mom passed away nine years ago and it seems like yesterday but that is a good sign of a great relationship that I know you both had with your mom. Time will help heal your wounds but will never let you forget all the great memories. Sincerely, all my sympathies and prayers are with you, Jerry Battles.##imported-begin##Jerry Battles##imported-end##

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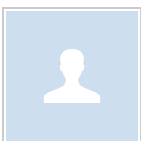
“ Mary Anne was one of the first people I met when I came to work at KCC almost 13 years ago. She was so friendly, had such a positive outlook and made me feel good just to be around her. Over the years our friendship grew, we talked about many things, shared laughs and emails and stories of her grandchildren. I just enjoyed knowing she was around. I will miss her so very much but I'm so blessed to have had her as a friend. She leaves behind an empty space that will never be filled. My deepest sympathy to Tom and Mike and all the family, you were blessed to have her for a mother.##imported-begin##Lyn Earls##imported-end##

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“ Good-bye, Friend. See you on the Other Side.##imported-begin##Pollyanna DeYoung##imported-end##

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“ Sorry for your loss and the lord be with you always.##imported-begin##Tyra Ledbetter##imported-end##

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“ Thank you for being a great teacher Mrs. Steele. You will always be remembered at KCC.##imported-begin##Mitchell Nettleingham##imported-end##

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“ My thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time. ĩ½Please let me know if you need anything.

With Deepest Sympathy,

Daryl Martin##imported-begin##Daryl Martin##imported-end##

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“ Dear Tom,Janice,Mike,Lisa & family, I am truly sorry for your loss. You are in my prayers. Your Mom & Dad were a great inspiration to me. They loved deeply. Their family brought them great joy. I always admired your mother. I can truly say she was the most influential teacher I ever had. She gave me a love for reading that has not faded. I can remember clearly her joy & laughter. It was contagious. But, most of all her walk with our Lord impacted me most of all. I know she is in His presence now & together again with her "Wib". ĩ½##imported-begin##Lisa Coffman Meils##imported-end##

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“ Several years ago, Mary Anne attended a convention here in ABQ and it was a blessed and grand reunion after many miles and years apart. I will always cherish Mary Anne's friendship and we will be together again one day. I am a better person from knowing her and we will be forever friends. I praise and thank our Lord for finally taking her home from all her months of suffering and now be in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior.##imported-begin##Joan M. Holmes##imported-end##

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“ Dear Tom & Janice - Mike & Lisa and Stephanie, Kim, Kris & Jennifer, Ben, & Josh - What a family - We are sad with you as you grieve your Mom now - yet we know she is so happy in heaven with your Dad. Memories cannot be taken from us and we will always remember days gone by - I have tucked away in my special place my thoughts of your Mom and Grandma - she Loved her Lord and her family and I know you her grandchildren were just treasured by her - Tom and Mike you are great son's and Janice and Lisa just precious daughters-in-law - we are all better people who were known by Mary Anne - She did have a laugh that just magnetized you and you had to laugh too! I She had such stories of her childhood she shared to her class's - I was her teachers aide a few years at GBA and shared wonderful days with her - she was a comfort to me just almost 2 years ago 5/07 yet it seems like yesterday she walked into our place of sorrow and hugged me with tears streaming down her cheeks and held my hand and spoke words of kindness to me at our Trevor's loss - She has met my Trevor in heaven and I know she had him laughing . Our ((hugs)) are with you all at this bitter-sweet time and we will keep you in our prayers and we Thank God for your Mother's walk with God that was shared with us all - love, Chuck and Judi##imported-begin##chuck and judi schneider##imported-end##

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“ We both had Mary Ann as a teacher at KCC. She was a very pleasurable teacher to have. Her wit & smile will surely be missed. Our Prayers are with you all in your time of sorrow. May God Bless you all.##imported-begin##Ed & April Anderson Jr##imported-end##

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“ Dear Tom and Janice,

Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this time.

##imported-begin##Jackie Bruhn##imported-end##

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“ I got the pleasure of taking care of Maryann at Miller Center and she is a lovely lady and I will miss her. To her family I send my prayers.##imported-begin##Marsha Kulwiec##imported-end##

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“ Mary Anne was a great teacher and friend. Our families have intersected in many ways over the years. I have learned much from the way that Mary Anne lived and died. Most of all her testimony has pointed me to Christ. She will be missed on this earth. I will see you on the other side.##imported-begin##Brad Thomas##imported-end##

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“ I meet Mary Anne Steele at KCC for my reading teacher. She was such a beautifl person to me. She was my first reading teacher and worked with me i½so very kind. She was a caring person, inspiration to me and dressed so neatley, she had shoes to match her outfit when she came to school. By looking at her i½the way she carried her self, you would have not known that she was sick. May God continue to bless your family and remember God is to wise to make a mistake.##imported-begin##Arlene Shepherd##imported-end##

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“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of your mother. i½Even though I know she is in a wonderful place and with no pain it is still very difficult for those she left behind. i½She loved her family very much. i½I know you don't know me, but Ed Hedlin has been keeping me updated about her struggle. i½Mary Anne, Ed, and I all graduated together from St. Anne High. i½My prayers are with you all. i½I wish I could attend your Mom's services and meet all of you, but I am confined to my home for the most part. i½GOD BLESS YOU ALL.##imported-begin##Evelyn M. DePatis##imported-end##

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“ Mary Ann will be greatly missed. I worked with her at KCC and she was a wonderful person.

My deepest condolences to her entire family, especially her son Tom, with whom I also worked.##imported-begin##Clara Gillespie##imported-end##

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“ NULL##imported-begin##William Hazzard##imported-end##

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“ You touched so many students...many we shared. ĩ½Such a wonderful tribute to a wonderful person.

Please keep guiding our young men and women.##imported-begin##Kathi Ruge##imported-end##

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“ To the Steele family. ĩ½We have enjoyed the smiling face of Mrs. Steele everytime she came in for service at Hove Buick. ĩ½She was a wonderful person and will be missed by all that new her. May God Bless her and all of her family during this time of loss.##imported-begin##Brad Rechkemmer##imported-end##

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“ To the Steele Family,

I write to you in great sadness over the loss of your mother/grandmother. ĩ½May Jesus Christ comfort your hearts during this very difficult time. ĩ½You are in our thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Lisa Graves (formerly Lisa Kilgore)##imported-end##

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“ *1/2our family will miss maryanne, she is a great person with a heart of gold and a very strong belief in the lord, we appreciate all the things she did for people she didnt even know and those she did . sending pkgs to my son and others while they were in iraq and other places , she always thought of other people frist , she has a great big heart, and we will miss her.##imported-begin##Valerie 1/2Steele Davis##imported-end##*

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“ *We're so sorry to hear of Aunt Mary Anne's passing. We plan on being with you to celebrate her crossing.

 1/21/2Love,

 1/21/21/2Heather##imported-begin##Terry and Heather Steele##imported-end##*

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“ *MaryAnn will be greatly missed##imported-begin##Marilyn Matthews##imported-end##*

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“ *Mrs. Steele was not only just an awesome teacher but she was an awesome woman that encourages you and not only that she was a kind person.##imported-begin##Latresa Carroll##imported-end##*

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“ I worked with Mr Steele at SAGS, and Mary Anne was a wonderful person, very supportive of her family and will be missed##imported-begin##Terry Brinkman##imported-end##

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“ Your mother and father served the Lord in a way that influenced many lives. ¶½Your mother was always a visible support to your father's ministry. ¶½Many of us serve in fulltime ministries today because of their sacrificial love for the Lord and those who their lives touched. ¶½We will always remember our days together with them at GBA. ¶½Know that their testimonies will be shared for many years to come. ¶½I am grateful the Lord allowed our paths to cross in this life, and we have the blessed hope of eternity together.##imported-begin##John Weidert##imported-end##

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