



## Mary M. Taylor

March 5, 1909 - April 19, 2008

Mary M. Taylor, 99, of Kankakee, died Saturday (April 19, 2008) at Provena Heritage Village. Visitation will be from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday at the Clancy-Gernon-Hertz Funeral Home, west Kankakee. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Tuesday at St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church. The Rev. Dennis Settles will officiate. Burial will be in Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Catholic Charities, St. Martin of Tours Catholic Church, or to Hospice of Kankakee Valley. She was born March 5, 1909, in Salina Township, the daughter of Elmer N. and Margaret Dunn Taylor, the middle of three children -- having an older and a younger brother. Her father owned and operated a grain elevator. Her mother passed away when she was a teenager. She continued to live with her father in Bonfield, and when she moved to Kankakee, she maintained a home for him until his death. She attended Notre Dame Academy in Bourbonnais. She graduated from St. Patrick High School in Kankakee and St. Viator College in Bourbonnais. She subsequently spent two summers in advanced studies in Boston. Her first job was teaching eight grades in a one-room country school several miles from her home. She rode with a friend to within one mile of school and walked the rest of the way regardless of the weather. On cold days, she built an early fire so the room would be warm when the children arrived. After teaching in a small town high school, she taught at Longfellow School and later became its principal. Early in the war, she was the first woman hired at the Elwood Munitions Plant, where she ultimately was in charge of all women who worked

there during her employment. She served many, many years on the boards of Alfred Fortin Villa, Community Chest (now United Way), American Cancer Society, as well as on numerous Zonta committees. In keeping with her personal mission to serve, she accepted the position of Executive Director of Catholic Charities and remained there for 29 years. There were no Social Services Degrees in those early post-war years, so she learned daily how to perfect her position while on the job. Programs that she directed touched the lives of many, whenever, wherever there was a call for help. Many former clients kept in contact, especially parents whose adoptive process was facilitated by her through the agency. All of this was achieved at a time in history when women found it difficult to move about in the professional world, which offered few opportunities. She was a faithful member of St. Martin of Tours Church and the Council of Catholic Women in Kankakee. She was a charter member of the Zonta Club of Kankakee that was founded in 1956. Throughout her membership she provided a firm and guiding hand in determining the type of a service club that it would be and become. She was the recipient of the Service Award for the year 2001. She was also an active member of Kankakee County Retired Teachers. Surviving are two nephews, Richard Taylor, Edward (Connie) Taylor; a very special niece, Mary Pat Barney and husband Willam; and lifelong friend and neighbor, Betty Girard. Deceased are two brothers and sisters-in-law, Aloysius and Catherine Taylor, and Francis and Carolyn Taylor.

# Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Album



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Clancy-Gernon Funeral Homes - December 07, 2010 at 02:52 PM



“ Mary Pat and family,<br><br><br><br>Our thoughts and prayers are with you at the passing of your dear Aunt Mary.<br><br>She was such a fixture at Heritage Village-- sitting by the fireplace, calling her friendly greeting to all who walked by. ĩ½What a wonderful and full life she led. ĩ½She will be missed.<br><br>Margy Koziol and family##imported-begin##Margy (Baldwin) Koziol##imported-end##

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April 19, 2008 at 03:53 PM



“ Mary Pat, Richard, Edward and families. ĩ½<br><br>Please accept my sympathy on the loss of your Aunt Mary. ĩ½She was a lovely lady and always had a smile. ĩ½She knew my voice when I spoke to her, even at Heritage House with the other voices interfering. ĩ½She enjoyed the music when Peggy and I would play for the residents.<br><br>I have had some health issues lately and a very demanding day today and I am exhausted. ĩ½I hope you will forgive me for not being there in person. ĩ½Again my best wishes and condolences to your family.<br><br>Bill Dyon##imported-begin##William R. Dyon##imported-end##

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April 19, 2008 at 03:53 PM



“ I will always treasure the times I had as a young girl being part of the Rivard family. <br><br>Living on the street behind them and babysitting for the kids I felt part of the family.<br><br>I have always remembered Mrs. Rivard as a kind, gentle, soft spoken, hard working, loving mother.<br><br>I know God has a special place in heaven for her.<br><br>My love and prayers go to the family.  
 ĩ ħ½<br><br><br><br>Mrs. Joan Asbill, Gadbois###imported-begin###Rev. Gene & Joan Asbill ( former Joan Gadbois)###imported-end###

April 19, 2008 at 03:53 PM



“ ĩ ħ½ĩ ħ½In the name of all the Springfield<br><br> Dominican Sisters that had the pleasure<br><br> of working with Mary at Fortin Villa,<br><br> Sr. Bernice and I would like to express<br><br> our sympathy to Mary's Family.<br><br> ĩ ħ½ĩ ħ½Mary was truly a "Great Lady".<br><br> Her untiring faithfulness and devotion<br><br> to us and the children we served are<br><br> cherished memories.<br><br> ĩ ħ½ĩ ħ½ĩ ħ½May the God Mary loved and served so<br><br> ĩ ħ½well in this life,now grant her the<br><br> ĩ ħ½fullness of His Life and Love for all<br><br> ĩ ħ½Eternity.<br><br>###imported-begin###Sr. Joan Barbara Fenton, O.P.###imported-end###

April 19, 2008 at 03:53 PM



“ Mary was the most wonderful, gentle and gracious Lady and the best friend of the "Villa Sisters and Children" for all these years since the Villa began.<br><br>I am sure Mary walked right into Heaven and was greeted by her loving family and her many friends especially Sr. Joseph Mary. ĩ½I am deeply sorry that I can not come for the wake or funeral but will be with you all in Spirit and prayer.Mass will be said in our Chapel here tomorrow for Mary. ĩ½I loved Mary dearly as did so many others. May she rest in Peace. Prayers for you all also as you mourn the loss of Mary. ĩ½Mary Pat I remember the times Sr. Joseph Mary & I got to spend with Mary and your family. ĩ½Love and Prayers Always, Sr. Josetta###imported-begin###Sr. Josetta Brown###imported-end##

April 19, 2008 at 03:53 PM



“ Dear Family of Mary Taylor:<br><br><br><br>Mary was my neighbor for many years when we lived on Main Avenue, and she lived at the corner of Main & Calista. ĩ½Mary was such a wonderful, caring woman. ĩ½I got to know Mary through Zonta, and I enjoyed taking her to the meetings which at that time were held at the Redwood Inn.<br><br><br><br>Mary achieved great success as a teacher and as Executive Director of Catholic Charities. ĩ½She was a woman "before her time" -- a born leader who led by example. <br><br><br><br>She loved her nieces and nephews and often shared stories about them.<br><br><br><br>She was a "true lady" and will be greatly missed, but I know she is with her God, and she will have eternal happiness in Heaven.<br><br><br><br>Chris & Larry Huffman###imported-begin###Christine Huffman###imported-end##

April 19, 2008 at 03:53 PM



“ Dear Dick, Ed and Mary Pat,  
  
We just thought, like I'm sure you did, that your Aunt Mary would just go on forever. Although we haven't seen her for years, we still have many wonderful memories of her. Her dedication to the Villa was what we both remember most. We also recall that, seeing her after many years one time, she still remembered who we were! She was truly an amazing lady and I'm sure you'll miss her.  
  
Know that you are in our thoughts and prayers.  
  
Love,  
  
Wayne and Cheryl###imported-begin###Wayne and Cheryl Segneri###imported-end##

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April 19, 2008 at 03:53 PM



“ Mary was the neighbor of my granparents, Mr. & Mrs. John and Betty Gerard.  
  
I will always remember Miss Taylor as a very saintly woman. A true joy and pleasure--- a true lady. I always enjoyed spending time visiting with her. She will be surely missed.  
  
To all who mourn the loss of Mary, let us be assured and consoled in the hope of the resurrection.  
  
May the choirs of angels come to greet her, may they bring her to paradise!###imported-begin###Michael Heinlein###imported-end##

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