



## Mary Conrath

February 3, 1919 - January 2, 2018

Mary Frances Elligsen Conrath age 98 died Tuesday January 2, 2018 in Moses Lake, Washington. Mary was born February 3, 1919 in Toronto Canada to Arthur Mockford and Frances Alford immigrants to Canada from England in 1913. In 1923 Mary moved with her parents and two older brothers to California, where they lived for 10 years. Mary had fond memories of her free-spirited childhood, growing up in Inglewood and Sacramento California. Her father worked in banking, served as a high school principal, and eventually was ordained into the Priesthood for the Episcopal Church. This is when she became a “preachers” daughter, and the idea did not always impress her! During these years her family worked hard and experienced the “Great Depression”, but to hear her stories of her adventurous childhood, times were great! Mary’s brother Roger was born in 1924, and sister Margaret in 1932. In 1933 when Mary was 14 years old, her father took a position as a priest at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Oregon City, Oregon. Mary was not happy about this move to the rainy climate of Oregon, and soon found herself enrolled in St. Helen’s Hall, an Episcopal School for girls in Portland Oregon. Her parents with their proper British roots, thought this would transform their active outdoorsy daughter into a “lady”. Mary was miserable, and eventually her parents allowed her to enroll in Oregon City High School, where she was much happier. Mary thrived, becoming actively involved in many school activities and sports. Tennis was her favorite, and she often talked about it, and frequently told people that her participation in Tennis was why she had such great legs! Mary graduated from High School in 1936. During high school she met Frederick Melvin Elligsen, who she set her sights on, and eventually won his heart, and they married in 1940. They enjoyed fishing, hunting, skiing, and their love for the outdoors. Times were tough during World War II, Mary and Fred moved a lot, Fred working for the Oregon State Patrol patrolling and protecting the Oregon Coast line. Between 1940 and 1946 they lived and worked in Tumalo Oregon, Hood River Oregon, Garibaldi Oregon, Coquille, Oregon, and Burns Oregon. During this time, they had their first 3 children, Frederick Stuart (1943), and twin girls Sharon Rose and Karen Annette (1946). In 1947 the family moved to Bend Oregon, where Fred worked in Insurance. Another daughter was born in 1949 Julie Ann. In 1949 the family moved to John Day Oregon, where Fred took a job as Chief of Police. The family settled in to this little Eastern Oregon Community and made it their long-term

home, raising their children and becoming active in the community. Mary was involved in the Rebecca Lodge, Lady Elk's, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, and a Gun Club. They enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, and spending time in the Eastern Oregon outdoors. Mary worked as a Nurses Aid and an Office Nurse, assisting in surgery from 1955-1968, enjoying her work in a medical career. In 1962 daughter Mary Laurie was born. Sadly, Fred passed away in 1963 from a heart attack, and Mary was left to finish raising the children. In 1968 Mary went back to school in Portland, Oregon to get training as a Medical Record Technician. She worked as a Medical Record Technician in John Day from 1969-1971. In 1971 Mary and daughter Laurie moved to Moses Lake, where Mary took a job as Medical Record Supervisor at Samaritan Hospital. Mary worked at Samaritan Hospital from 1971- 1984. In 1974 she married Henry "Jack" Conrath, and the two enjoyed participating in dance clubs like The Over the Hill Gang, and The Elks Club. They traveled often. Mary's husband Jack passed away in 1996, again leaving her on her own. Being the strong woman, she was, Mary continued in good spirit enjoying her active life. She moved to the Block-40 Community, enjoying country life. Mary was a member of St. Martin's Episcopal Church, AARP, Women's Club, Block 40 Gloydette's, and did volunteer work for Hospice, the Senior Center, and Samaritan Hospital. Mary took up carving as a hobby and loved to garden and work in her yard. Mary loved animals, and always had favorite dogs and cats on her lap. Mary was the family matriarch, and loved to spend time with her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. She liked to look at them all with pride and state "Look what I started"! She not only started this family, she also supported it, loved it, inspired it, and will remain in our hearts always.

Mary is preceded in death by her parents Julian and Frances Mockford, brothers Stuart, Martin, and Roger Mockford. Husbands, Frederick Melvin Elligsen and Henry "Jack" Conrath. Son Frederick Stuart Elligsen, and son in-law Max Morley.

Mary is survived by one sister Margaret Foss (Calif.), daughters Sharon (Max) Morley, Karen (Ray) Dockery, Julie (Dennis) Reynolds, Laurie (Iver) Odegaard, Edith Smith (Fred), 15 grandchildren, and 19 great grandchildren.

A Memorial Service Honoring Mary's life will be held January 20th, 2018 at St. Martins Episcopal Church in Moses Lake, at 1 pm. Sign online guestbook at [www.kayserschapel.com](http://www.kayserschapel.com) Arrangements in care of Kayser's Chapel.

Memorials can be made in her name to: St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Block-40 Scholarship Fund, or the Block-40 Gloydette Scholarship.

# Comments

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“ I did not know until now of Mary's passing away. My first job as a cosmetologist was at The Carriage Trade Beauty Salon, and that is when I had the pleasure of knowing her. She was a lovely lady and I enjoyed doing her hair every week for 3 years, before I moved away.



**Audrey (Gardner) Entzel** - July 26, 2018 at 09:39 PM

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“ To Laurie and her family - I have very fond memories of your mom. I met you and your mom at St. Martin's when we were in grade school. You two had a relationship that made me smile. She was very patient with you! Your mom was so sweet and loved you. She raised a lovely family. I am sorry for your sadness at this time. May you be blessed with memories of your mother.  
Liz Hildreth

**Elizabeth Hildreth** - January 21, 2018 at 10:04 PM

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“ We have greatly appreciated being a part of this wonderful family, Mama Mary included! We will miss her, and we care greatly about all of you! We love you, Ron & Christy Welch

**christy welch** - January 19, 2018 at 10:01 PM

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“ I remember Mary from St. Martin's Episcopal Church. She was a wonderful, strong woman. I know she will be missed. She was friends with my parents. I know that Mary and my mom are having tea in Heaven.

**Lee Hadley-Stanbrough** - January 09, 2018 at 12:28 AM

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“ My life has been blessed with 'Mother' who has been the most wonderful, welcoming mother-in-law, one could have, these past 53 years.... Edith Elligsen Smith



“ Mary you were a very special person to me. I will always cherish the memories in John Day and Canyon City. It meant so much to me when we communicated during the holidays. I recall pictures within your Christmas cards having gorgeous flowers in the back ground, your beautiful smile and a little dog. Mary you will always be in my heart. My prayers and thoughts are with your family.  
Lynnette Halverson

Lynnette Halverson - January 07, 2018 at 02:30 PM

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“ Edith Smith lit a candle in memory of Mary Conrath



Edith Smith - January 07, 2018 at 01:11 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Laurie Odegaard - January 06, 2018 at 12:26 AM

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“ What a beautiful lady. I had the opportunity to get to know her when I worked at Samaritan and she was a volunteer in the HR dept. I have a beautiful butterfly letter opener that she carved for me and will treasure this piece. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family and friends.  
Gene & Bonnie Polhamus

Bonnie Polhamus - January 04, 2018 at 06:34 PM

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“ Aunt Mary always made us feel welcome and loved. She would intently look me in the eye and give me her full attention when she visited with me, always with a kind touch to the arm and always with positivity. Her fond relationship with my Dad and mom (Roger,her brother and Marie) was wonderful to experience...especially when they would laugh together! I always found myself gravitating to sit near them to receive these gifts of moments, and listen intently to their shared memories. I have so loved spending moments with each of her family, as i see her strength and love in each of them. I firmly believe there is an enormous celebration going on in Heaven as her family and friends in Heaven all reunite, and I also believe they will be with us all in spirit, watching over us like they supported us in life here on earth. My heart grieves and yet is in faith that they are in Heaven! Love to you all and to Aunt Mary,always.

**Linda mockford ferris** - January 06, 2018 at 11:29 AM



“ Thank you Linda for your kind words. You were very special to her, and she counted you one of her own! We all do.

**Laurie** - January 06, 2018 at 07:51 PM



“ Thank you Bonnie.

**Laurie** - January 06, 2018 at 07:52 PM