



Mrs. Mary Blakley Jones

November 21, 1943 - July 20, 2020

Mrs. Mary L. Blakley Jones, age 76, of Nicholson passed away Monday, July 20, 2020 at Northeast Georgia Medical Center. Mrs. Jones was born in Chandler, OK to the late, Harlie and Lola Sutton Blakley. Mrs. Jones was a food service manager, a member of Antioch United Methodist Church, and was an adventurous traveler with the Mus'Gos. In addition to her parents, Mrs. Jones was also preceded in death by her son, Stephen Jones.

Mrs. Jones is survived by her daughters, Cheryl Jones (Jack McGarry) of Hackettstown, NJ and Susan Jones (Tyler Smith) of Reno, NV; brother, Earl Ray Blakley of Ft. Worth, TX; four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Memorial service will be held Wednesday, July 29th at 4:30PM from the Antioch United Methodist Church with Rev. Marshall Brunner officiating. The service will also be live stream on the church's Facebook page.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Antioch United Methodist Church, The National MS Society, and The Salvation Army.

Little-Ward Funeral Home, Commerce is in charge of arrangements.

Previous Events

Service

JUL **29**. 4:30 PM (ET)

Antioch United Methodist Church
885 Antioch Church Road
Nicholson, GA 30565

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Mary Blakley Jones*

October 09, 2023 at 05:17 AM



“ *49 files added to the tribute wall*



Susan Jones - August 07, 2020 at 08:28 PM

SJ

“ From Susan - part II:

Of course we can't ignore mom's stubborn side, she was always going to be in charge, and was happy to tell all of us what to do, what we were doing wrong, and how to follow the proper Jones process...to do it her way! Mom wanted to be in charge, especially in the kitchen, and given the opportunity, in almost any circumstance. She did like to be the boss. This was especially true when it came to making decisions about her life and how to live it, and she was going to do things on her own terms. Recently as mom continued to get weaker and the disease seemed to be gaining ground, Cheryl and I worried about how much longer she would be able to be on her own, and everyone around her dreaded the day when she might have to leave her home. But even in this, mom did things on her own terms. While I am not sure how I am going to fill the hole she leaves behind, I am so grateful she is now free of her wheelchair and her pain and the limitations. She is now liberated to roam as she always wanted, and she is once again with Steve who we lost far too early.

Susan Jones - August 07, 2020 at 05:24 PM

“ From Susan - part I:

A few years ago the church asked us to write something for mother's day, and I think what I wrote for mom came very close to summarizing the many things that I love and appreciate that mom gave me, even if I did not always appreciate the lessons at the time they were being given!

So what did I learn?

Love of travel

Love of reading and learning and education

Love of adventure

Appreciation of good food and love of theatre

And most importantly, a willingness to work hard

Above all else, mom was generous: with her love, with her food, with her energy, with her spirit, with her knowledge, with her opinions, with whatever she possessed that could be shared. I'm sure I never told her enough how much I appreciate everything she gave to us, even when, or maybe especially when, there was not much extra money or times were tough. In fact, in my life I never felt that times were tough, she held that burden close and made sure I had every opportunity to learn, to grow, to work, to travel, to develop a yearning to see and experience more of the world. What I learned from her is that being generous has little to do with money, it is about giving of yourself, supporting others, even when you disagree with choices they are making, having loyalty to those around you which brings back loyalty in abundance, setting an example of how rich life can be when you make yourself an integral part of the community in which you live and work.

At just the moment when most people would be planning for retirement, for the next stage of life to begin, a chance to finally have all those exciting adventures that you had put off due to work requirements, mom was given a life sentence of MS, the knowledge that she would face progressively deteriorating physical capacity.

But even this could not keep mom down, she still managed to visit South Africa, Mexico, UAE, Turkey, England, and to occasionally visit Mus' Gos and other friends and family in the US. She made the most of every opportunity she had.

As we all know, mom spent more than 20 years staring down the scourge of MS, but she never caved in or showed weakness and she would not countenance pity, from herself or others. She was fearless even as the disease progressed insidiously and she faced increasing physical challenges. And in spite of all the difficulties, she insisted on living in her own house, with her cats and with a yard full of flowers and birds and squirrels and deer, and any other creatures that happened to pass through. Of course this was only possible because of the incredible family of caregivers that she had around her, and I can only offer my eternal gratitude to Patricia, Sunshine, Jessica, Dawn, Jordan and all the others for making it possible for mom to be independent until the very end. I am not sure that I have the same strength, I don't know if I could have fought as long, or as relentlessly and bravely as she did.

What I strive for more than anything is to make mom proud, to feel that I have lived a life that honors the many sacrifices she had to make in order to make my life story possible. Mom always had high expectations, and there was perhaps no worse feeling on earth than her disappointment. But on the opposite side, there was no better feeling on earth than her being proud of you, her joy in our accomplishments and adventures and experiences that she could only imagine. That we were able to have experiences she would never get to try herself did not diminish her joy in the least; and mom's pride was visceral...it made you feel like a giant.

Susan Jones - August 07, 2020 at 05:20 PM

CT

“ From Carol Tidwell - part II:

*Mishap Mary to Adventurous Mary to Challenged Mary
She found she had MS but still wears a happy face,
She still works all day, but slowed down her pace.
From 14 hours to 8 hours a day,
Which might put anyone else flat on his or her face.
She traveled to Dubai by herself, intent on seeing her daughter,
It was a long trip but she was not daunted, like she ought.
With a smile and a grin she gets through each day,
The pain may be great but Mary never will say,
Her spirit and spunk still guiding the way.
She cannot beat this MS and the challenge continues to mar,
The sun may not shine as bright, the smile not quite as large,
But for all of us – she is still a bright star.*

Mus' Gos

*The Mus' Gos are women,
Always willing to try.
For us nothing is too fast, too far or too high.*

*We'll play tennis or golf, take a walk or a run.
Whatever we do,
We're sure to have fun.*

*We'll raft down a river or tramp through the snow.
A mountain, we'll hike it!
Cause we just...Mus Go!*

*We'll go bowling or skiing, we'll even ice skate.
Invite us to roller blade,
We'll say "We can't wait."*

*We'll ride a horse, we'll canoe. We'll bike miles and miles.
But whatever we do, we'll do it with style.
Just being together and wearing big smiles.*

"It's Magic."

Carol Tidwell - August 07, 2020 at 05:02 PM

SB

“ I remember the first time meeting Aunt Mary Lou. She lit up the room with her smile and laughter, and immediately made me feel welcome. She was a strong person that lived life to the fullest and always seemed to be in the middle of an adventure. I loved listening to her stories, especially about bungee jumping off the bridge in Queenstown, New Zealand. She would tell it with laughter as Bud would sit there and tease her. She and Bud loved getting in the kitchen to cook, although I'm not sure which one was the boss. She left two beautiful, strong daughters who will carry on her legacy.

Love,
Tammy

Being around my aunt Mary Lou was always entertaining. I will never forget the time Aunt Mary Lou, Aunt Glendola, and Dad were all in the kitchen trying to get things ready for Grandma and Grandpa's anniversary dinner and they each wanted to be the boss. I just sat, watched, and laughed as they each tried to be the chief over the other two. Let's just say there was more arguing taking place than actual work. I also remember the time I was showing off on the horse and got thrown. She initially came to my rescue, but once she figured out that I was OK, she just laughed and made fun of me. She will truly be missed.

Love,
Skip

Skip Blakley - July 29, 2020 at 09:27 PM

MW

“ Mary was one of the original Mus' Gos and game for any sort of activity or adventure.

She was one chef extraordinaire.

She gave everything her all. When Jo's car got stuck in North Carolina, we were all pushing. Mary, so much so, when the car got out, she landed face down in a cow pie. No one else would have come up laughing!

Another time, in New Zealand, Mary got thrown out of the raft and ended up under it. Quite a survivor in other situations as well!

In her later years, we all admired her as she handled all of her difficulties without complaining. What an inspiration!

I always admired your whole family as you worked together, for example in the restaurant.

I was fortunate to have Mary as part of my life.

May god bless you both as you handle life without your strong, Christian mother's example. We will forever cherish our many memories.

What a legacy she left.

Martha Walton - July 29, 2020 at 12:25 PM

EQ

“ I will always remember "Aunt" Mary Lou when this Maryland city boy would visit the grandparents for two weeks every year or two. We would go horseback riding, fishing, tractor riding, chicken chasing, cow milking, cat scratching and visiting all our nearby relatives. She never complained about having to entertain me, even when she was a teenager and I was two years younger than she. She has always been more of a cousin and I will miss her very much. I know she is walking around blissfully in Heaven.

Edward Quinn - July 28, 2020 at 06:00 PM

SS

“ I always loved her sweet soul and her personality. She was always so loving and kind and always had a smile ! Wish I could still see you just to hug you and say thank you.

stacy smitj - July 26, 2020 at 04:31 AM



“ Sweet Sincerity was purchased for the family of Mrs. Mary Blakley Jones.



July 25, 2020 at 11:32 PM

SA

“ I had the privilege of meeting Mary in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia approximately 30 years ago along with a large group of her merry band of Mus'Goes. She entertained with her keen wit and sharp mind. Somehow, Mary and I came to the aid of her friend Jo on this particular trip, who had gotten stuck in her Mercedes in a cow field. As Mary and I pushed the car, it finally moved forward. However, Mary didn't get her footing quickly enough to avoid falling into a cow "pie ". No one laughed louder than Mary. That was the fun loving person she was. From bungee jumping in New Zealand, hiking the Blue Ridge, rafting and biking numerous states, Mary enjoyed life. Even after her diagnosis, Mary seemed to see the best in life. She has been an inspiration to me as well as many others privileged to know her. Rest in peace dear Mary. Your life has touched so many. Sharon Albertson- Mus'Go from Virginia



Sharon Albertson - July 25, 2020 at 05:02 PM

CJ

“ Mom's service can be viewed on Facebook Live at <https://m.facebook.com/Antioch-United-Methodist-Church-113827521978713/>

You will need a Facebook account, so please sign up for that ahead of time, if you don't already have an account.

Cheryl Jones - July 24, 2020 at 11:22 AM