



## Mary Jane Upchurch

March 31, 1925 - October 2, 2021

Mary Jane Upchurch, beloved friend, mother, grandmother, and counselor, passed away at 96 years young on October 2, 2021. She was known for her sense of humor and compassion, evident even in her final years.

Mary Jane enjoyed sharing stories of her childhood on the cattle ranch where she grew up in Windsor, Colorado. As an only child, she became fiercely independent, a quality that would stick with her throughout her life.

Mary Jane's passion for education sparked when she was a substitute teacher at Headland High School in East Point, where her children also attended.

She had 5 children, an education within itself, and while raising her family with her late husband Jim, she enrolled at Georgia State University and earned a BA in education. She began her teaching career at College Park High School. Mary Jane went on to earn a Masters in Counseling, starting her career as a high school guidance counselor at Roswell High School.

She accompanied hundreds of students in their education, with special attention to those who were left behind by the school system at the time. In her time as an educator, she accompanied students on international trips that fed her love of travel. She was more than an educator, she was a respected friend and confidant to students.

Mary Jane embraced her family as a mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She'll join the party in heaven along with her husband Jim and daughter Susan. Those who will keep her light shining on earth include her children, Carol Cobb (Don), Nancy Dumbleton (Butch), Mike (Melanie Kidd), and Mary Ann Laurens (Reid); her grandchildren Laura, Jeff, Brandon, Jenn, Blake, Drew, Janie, John, Matthew, and Kate, and four great-grandchildren; and innumerable friends, students, and rescue dogs whose lives were changed by her empathy.

Diligent yoga practice kept her sharp and active until dementia affected her in her later years. Her love of nature and the divine presence she felt in it never wavered.

Visitation and a memorial service for Mary Jane will be Friday, October 8, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., respectively, at the chapel at Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home and Crematory, 180 Church Street, Marietta, GA 30060. The service will be live-streamed and later downloaded to this tribute page for viewing. Please look under Photos and Videos.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Angels Among Us Animal Rescue, <http://www.angelsamongusanimalrescue.org/donations.html> or Chattahoochee Nature Center, <https://www.chattnaturecenter.org/support-us/donate/>.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 8. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home  
180 Church Street, N.E.  
Marietta, GA 30060

## Memorial Service

OCT 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home  
180 Church Street, N.E.  
Marietta, GA 30060

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mary Jane Upchurch*



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**Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home** - October 08, 2021 at 08:35 AM

KP

“ *I was lucky enough to correspond with Mrs. Upchurch from 1991 until 2017. She wrote the most wonderful letters full of wisdom and experience. She was always very authentic and I appreciated her guidance and counsel when I asked for it (and even when I didn't). To know she blessed this world for 96 years makes me smile. What a positive impact she made on so many people...something we should all strive for. My thoughts and prayers are extended to her family, friends and all who loved her as much as I did.*

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**Kerry Powers** - October 10, 2021 at 09:05 PM

RC

“ *Mary Jane was a true gem! She was my guidance counselor and friend my entire 4 years at Roswell High School. Her door was always open. She always told you like it is with such a sweet and gentle way. She got me through the toughest part of my life. She was an amazing woman and now a sweet angel! Robin Nicholson Crawford*



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**Robin Crawford** - October 10, 2021 at 07:12 PM

SS

“ *I will never forget Ms. Upchurch. She was my counselor at Roswell High School. She took her time with every student. She was passionate about her job. What a dear woman. To this day I still talk about her. Rest In Peace Dear Lady. Shawn Garcia Snapp class of 1981*

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**Shawn Garcia Snapp** - October 09, 2021 at 07:10 PM

AL

“ *My dearest Nancy.*

*Reading about your mom makes me smile. She was a firecracker! what a wonderful woman. I can only imagine how she touched all her students lives. I remember you telling me short moments in time of things she did and said, we would both laugh out loud. Please know I care very much. I keep you and your family in my heart. A life to celebrate for sure.*

*Hugs, love and prayers.*

*anNie*

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**annie lidback** - October 06, 2021 at 04:55 PM