



Mrs. Marie Dempsey Nailling

April 7, 1918 - December 5, 2015

Marie Dempsey Nailling, 97, passed away peacefully on Saturday, December 5, 2015, at Brooks-Howell Home where she had been a resident for the past six years.

Marie was born April 7, 1918, in Centralia, Pennsylvania, the daughter of the late Edward V. and Mary C. (Hepner) Dempsey. As a young girl, she would accompany her father, the paymaster of a large coal company, as he made his rounds. Carrying a small notebook, she checked each man's name as he was paid his wages, "to make sure nobody was missed," she always said. Marie graduated from Conyngham Township High School and the Geisinger Hospital School of Nursing in Danville, Pa. She was employed as a registered nurse at Geisinger Hospital, and there met a young intern, Dr. Richard C. Nailling, who would become her beloved husband of 63 years. Marie and Richard Nailling were married on September 30, 1941, and in 1942, moved to Asheville where Dr. Nailling maintained a private practice and was associated with four local hospitals. They were members of First Baptist Church of Asheville.

Marie was a devoted wife and mother. Her primary focus was her family of nine children which she raised with the able assistance of her mother, Mary, and Ethel Parker. She was long known for her graciousness and cheerful disposition, which extended into her final years at Brooks-Howell Home. Beloved by the staff and fellow residents, Marie was an unfailing attendee of

art classes, “Chairacize” and chapel services. She also enjoyed weekly singing, in the chapel and with her family. Even in the face of deteriorating health, her spirits remained high and she rarely offered complaints — dismissing life’s challenges as merely “part of the game.”

The family would like to express special gratitude for the loving care Marie received from the staff at Brooks-Howell Home, and from Louise Brown, Sandy Miller and her many faithful caregivers through the years.

Marie was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Nailling (2005), as well as her parents, four brothers, Edward, Joseph, William and Raymond, and her sons-in-law, Stephen Harpold and Chester Copeland. She is survived by her nine devoted children, Mary Elinor Crosby (Rod Crosby), Houston TX; Jeanne Ann Ichimura (Shohei Ichimura), Seatac, WA; Joan Cary Harpold (Stephen Harpold), Vashon WA; Virginia Lane, (David Nadworny), Somerville, MA), Elizabeth Nailling, Tucson, AZ; Richard Cabot Nailling, Jr. (Janet Schoff), Atlanta, GA; Margaret Chmielewski (Tom Chmielewski), Weaverville; Catherine Crawford, (Wilson Crawford), Cody, WY; Ima Cary Nailling (Chester Copeland), Chapel Hill; as well as 11 grandchildren, one great-grandchild and numerous nieces and nephews.

Marie is also survived by her local cousin, Dode Conroy, and dear friends Bubbles Marlowe and James Waddell.

A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. in the chapel at First Baptist Church, 5 Oak St., Asheville, NC 28801 on Monday, December 28, 2015 with Rev. Ron Brown officiating. Visitation will follow immediately in the atrium. Flowers may be sent for the First Baptist service on December 28th, or, in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Brooks-Howell Home, 266 Merrimon Ave., Asheville, NC, 28801.

Cemetery Details

Private

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 28. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Baptist Church of Asheville
5 Oak Street
Asheville, NC 28801

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Marie Dempsey Nailling*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Mary Elinor--our sympathy is extended to you and your family. I have fond memories of our high school friendship and visits with your mother and grandmother at your home. It is difficult to lose your mother but you have many wonderful memories. We'll be thinking of you.*

*Love, Ruth Toms Earwood and Jim Earwood
address: 472 Bel Bridge Circle
Midlothian, VA 23113*

e-mail: earwoodj@aol.com

Ruth Earwood - December 29, 2015 at 10:24 AM



“ *Barbara and I extend our sympathy to the Nailling family. Marie was a wonderful wife to her husband Richard who was a fine surgeon. She excelled in every aspect of her life. To have raised eight girls and one son to be successful citizens was amazing in itself. All of you can be proud of what she did. Love, Barbara and Barry Pate*

Barry R. Pate M.D. - December 22, 2015 at 02:15 PM



*Dr. and Mrs. Pate,
Thank you so much for your note to our family about Mom. We so appreciate your kindness and also your skilled and compassionate help over the years. We are all proud to have been her children and I believe her love will live on through us.*

Catherine - January 20, 2016 at 08:13 PM

TM

“ Catherine,
Please accept my condolences on your Mother's passing. Your family touched so many people in so many wonderful ways, your father's care, your mother's passions and interests and all of y'all...what a group, my distant cousin was in school with your older siblings and of course you were a year ahead of me at Asheville High.
Please know a great many people hold you dear and think of you and your family often.
Much love to you and yours,
Tommy McMahon

Tommy McMahon - December 15, 2015 at 05:49 AM

CA

Dearest Tommy,
Of course I remember you! Thank you so much for your sweet words and I want to let you know how much it means to me personally and to my family. Mom was amazing and I am so glad that she stayed with us through all these years. Much love back to your family and all of our friends in common. I really appreciate you writing and so does all of my family.
Sincerely,
Catherine

Catherine - December 17, 2015 at 10:16 PM

AB

“ Jerry and I have really admired how your family has rallied around your Mom. As in town family Margee and Tom have been "hands on" in such a loving, genuine way. We've enjoyed their stories of being with her especially through these recent times. She must have felt very loved!
Anne and Jerry Bergeron

anne bergeron - December 11, 2015 at 06:40 PM

CA

Thank you so much, Anne. You are such a sweet friend of Margee and Tom's and we all appreciate your thoughts about how great Margee and Tom have been to Mom. They have been her lifeline connecting her to all of us who live elsewhere. We are so grateful for having her happy to the end of a very long and fruitful life. She was the best Mom and we will miss her greatly.

Catherine

Catherine - December 17, 2015 at 10:22 PM

TC

*Thanks, Anne and Jerry,
Good friends make the hard times easier.*

Tom Chmielewski - January 05, 2016 at 01:28 PM

LB

“*Marie was first my employer, then became my best friend. It was my honor and privilege to be with her the last 15 years of her life.*

I saw her adapt to many changes with strength and inner peace. That can only come from a strong Christian lady. What a wonderful example she was to me.

I miss her dearly and I loved her so much.

*Louise Brown
Asheville, NC*

Louise Brown - December 10, 2015 at 07:41 PM

CC

Louise, you are in our hearts. Our whole family loves you dearly. You have been Mom's anchor and I'm absolutely sure her best friend, too.
Catherine

Catherine Crawford - December 10, 2015 at 07:47 PM

RO

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mrs. Nailling's passing. She certainly lived a full and wonderful life. I remember growing up at First Baptist Church and always remember the Nailling family sitting together in the sanctuary (taking up the entire row)! My Mom would say, "Now why do you have to sit in the balcony and why can't you sit with me like the Nailling children do with their parents"? Elizabeth and I graduated from high school together. I have many fond memories of the Nailling family. My prayer is that God will grant you peace and comfort at this time.

Rachel Neary Owenby - December 09, 2015 at 07:02 AM

RO

Maiden name was Neary.

Rachel Neary Owenby - December 09, 2015 at 07:04 AM

EL

Thank you, Rachel. Your kind words are appreciated. Elizabeth

elizabeth - December 10, 2015 at 02:11 PM

SC

So sorry to hear about Mrs. Nailing's (Marie) passing. I pray that all your memories sustain you and the grace of God will uphold you and your family during this most difficult time.

Marie, was a sweet, sweet woman and a true lady. She was a beautiful woman inside and out.

Speaking of memories and some of you will remember this memory at least I think you will. I did Marie's hair for years, she always had a smile on her face, she was always telling me stories about her family, especially her children.

I worked at Beau Monde Hair Salon and later at The Hair Factory. She came to the hair salon a couple days before Christmas, She made a comment about our beautiful Christmas tree. She also, mentioned that she had to get a christmas tree for her home. The salon was going to close for a week, so we offered Marie the salon Christmas tree. So, at closing time some of you, came out and packed that tree up and took it home. For a long time after that when she came to the salon, we all laughed about recycling that tree.

God Bless Each of YOU!!!!

Sandra Coggins - December 12, 2015 at 08:07 AM

CC

Thank you for adding such a sweet and personal memory of Mom. She was a great recycler! and she loved her 'special time to herself' at Beau Monde :) It was likely the only time she got to herself during those days. She was truly a great Mom. God Bless you, too, Sandra. And thanks for being Mom's good friend.

Catherine Crawford - December 12, 2015 at 12:21 PM