



Billie Mary Ann McCabe

January 6, 1936 - July 16, 2025

In Loving Memory of Billie Hurst McCabe (1936–2025)

Billie Mary Ann Hurst McCabe passed away in July 2025, surrounded by the family she cherished so dearly. Born in 1936 in Mount Washington, Missouri, Billie lived a vibrant life defined by bold ambition, creative energy, and unwavering devotion to her loved ones.

Billie was born in 1936 in Mount Washington, Missouri, to William and Mary Ethel Hurst, a steelworker and a homemaker. Billie was the older sister of two brothers—Gary and Larry. In her childhood she loved art and was passionate about school. Even in her teenage years she began to play a major role in her family members' lives. She helped to raise Larry, and was close with her extended family, especially her cousin and best friend Pat.

Billie never saw limitations and always defied expectations. A true entrepreneur at heart, she saw opportunities everywhere—and pursued them with tenacity and flair. She launched a range of ventures including a beauty parlor, a donut shop, and a doll and miniature store. As one of the few female insurance agents at Mutual of Omaha, she broke barriers in a male-dominated industry.

Her most enduring professional legacy lies in Creative World Schools, a

business she started with her life and business partner Duane McCabe. Together, they took a leap of faith, beginning with a single school and transforming it into a thriving national early childhood education brand. Their vision, confidence, and passion built a company that today spans six states and serves thousands of children. At the heart of Creative World is a community of educators and leaders who embraced Billie's vision—a culture of joy, high standards, and a deep belief in the power of play. Many who joined Billie and Duane in the early days remained with Creative World for decades, drawn by the mission she championed so passionately and the care, creativity, and loyalty she cultivated.

Billie collected antiques, dolls, and carousel animals—but more than that, she collected stories, relationships, and adventures. Her home was filled with beautiful things and whimsical treasures, from Christmas ornaments to figurines, all reflecting the colorful, storybook life she lived. She played cards with enthusiasm (and mischief), led spontaneous and memorable family trips and escapades, and had a lifelong passion for dogs both in the show ring and at home. Her charisma and energy left a lasting impression on everyone she met. The many “Billie stories” told by family, friends and colleagues are a testament to her larger-than-life presence and passion to live her fullest life.

Above all, Billie's proudest role was that of mother and grandmother. She is survived by her four children—Jana, Kathy, David, and Marianne—and six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. Her family carries forward the stories and spirit of the remarkable woman they called “Ms. Billie”.

Billie's legacy lives on in every life she touched—with laughter, with love, and with the fearless joy of a life lived fully.

Please join us for a Celebration of Life August 23, 10:30 at Lamb of God

Church, 19691 Cypress View Drive, Fort Myers FL – service, reception, and refreshments. Wear purple if you have it and bring your memories of Ms. Billie!

To sign her guest register or to leave an online condolence please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home Family Owned and operated Since 1978.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

AUG **23**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Lamb of God Church
19611 Cypress View Dr.
Ft. Myers, FL 33967

Tribute Wall

MT

“ Ms. Jan & The Thibodeau's planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Billie Mary Ann McCabe.

Ms. Jan & The Thibodeau's - August 21, 2025 at 11:00 AM

RS

“ 5 files added to the album Aunt Billie we love you.



Ronna Daye Sackuvich - August 20, 2025 at 09:48 AM