



## Mary Catherine "Mary Cay" Hill

August 15, 1938 - March 11, 2017

Mary Catherine "Mary Cay" Hill, 78, of Fort Myers Beach, FL, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 11, 2017. She was born on August 15, 1938 in Waterbury, CT, to Edward Thomas and Catherine Claudine (née Sayers) McGrath. Mary Cay was married to Robert C. Hill for 57 years, with whom she resided on Hickory Lane in Naugatuck, CT for 51 years before retiring full time to their home in Fort Myers Beach, FL.

Mary Cay was a 1956 graduate of Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury and a 1958 graduate of the Fones School of Dental Hygiene, University of Bridgeport, in Bridgeport, CT. She enjoyed her experience as a Hygienist in both the private and public dental health sectors, but her main vocation and devotion was to home and family.

She was a past Miss Naugatuck, a past member of the Naugatuck Footlighters Amateur Theater Group, the Naugatuck Women's Study Club, and the Women's Committee Mattatuck Museum. She was a lifetime member of both the Naugatuck Historical Society and the Estero Island Historic Society of Fort Myers Beach. Her longtime hobby was vintage dollhouses, and her favorite pastime was the beach!

In addition to her husband, Mary Cay is survived by her beloved children, Caroline H. (Jeff) Klein of San Diego, CA and Robert C. (Shinae) Hill, Jr. of

Laytonsville, MD; her brother, J. Myles (Marge) McGrath of Rome, NY; sister, Regina V. McGrath of Dana Point, CA; and 27 nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews and great grandnieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Edward T. McGrath, Jr., in 2010.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, March 18 at 10 AM, at the Church of the Ascension, 6025 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the Naugatuck Historical Society or the Estero Island Historic Society.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

# Previous Events

## Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of the Ascension  
6025 Estero Blvd.  
Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Catherine "Mary Cay" Hill*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *I remember going with my 'Uncle Bog' to visit Mary Cay at her home in Waterbury. It was long before their marriage. After they were married, I had a hard time adding the word 'Aunt' in front of her name! Those were fun visits and I always felt special when I was the one chosen to go with my uncle!!! Rest In Peace, Mary Cay...❤️*

Mary Lou Fay - March 19, 2017 at 03:08 PM



“ *Mary Cay's sister spoke so eloquently about our dear Aunt MCay. I loved learning about their close relationship regardless of the span of years between them. As a teenager looking for spending money, she hired me to 'sit' for my cousins Carrie and Rob. We have wonderful vivid memories which we shared at the get together after the touching service.  
I am certain MC was beaming down with pride at the manner in which C , R and S orchestrated the entire days' activities. We can all be comforted knowing she is pain free and now with those family and friends who our guardian angels. With love and peace, niece Susan Hill Beaman . 🙏❤️❤️🎈🎈*

Susan Hill Beaman - March 19, 2017 at 02:43 PM

“ You are my Big Sister, my only sister, my "Favorite Sister" as we both always endearingly referred to each other.

*Mom called you "Baby Bird" & I was "Love Bird." I would often ask mom, "whom do you love best?" She would wisely reply, "I love Baby Bird the longest."*

*Despite our 16 year age difference, we never had a problem relating & having long conversations.....& I mean LONG! They would last hours but never felt like it. Between calls I would keep my "Mary Catherine List" of items to be covered in our next conversation. I can't believe there won't be a "next" one.*

*At 16 you often had to care for the new baby in the house. I'm so sorry I resisted all of your valiant efforts to get me to eat peas!*

*You were so beautiful & I was so very proud to introduce you to my friends. "THAT'S my sister," I would beam, "I TOLD you how beautiful she is!" I wanted to grow up as pretty as you & win Beauty Pageants just like you. You even let me play with your sparkly crowns! You did it all, Ballet, Spanish dancing, even a baton twirling Majorette (sorry, that WAS me who took your baton & bent it when trying to imitate your skills).*

*You were as brilliant as you were beautiful. I see you standing beside mom as she's accompanying you on the piano, & I clearly hear your stunning operatic voice melodiously filling our home. I would be entranced. When you acted on stage in local theater, I was in awe. You exuded such confidence & stage presence. You were truly a "Star!"*

*You guided me through many of my "firsts." When I was devastated because I had to wear ugly braces you miraculously convinced me that I looked "cute." You patiently endured hours of shopping with me to find the perfect pair of jeans or bathing suit. For my first prom you helped me hunt down that one dress that would make me feel*

*like a princess! You helped me write my first love letter to a boyfriend serving in Vietnam - heck, you basically wrote it for me! I had a break up & called you sobbing. You were never too busy to listen & talk. Who will listen now? You offered me that rare gift, unconditional love.*

*I remember one of my birthdays as a young & moody teen when I insisted on not having a family gathering. I was sitting forlornly outside in front of our house (regretting my decision), when suddenly your car pulls up & there was your big, brilliant, beautiful smile! You handed me a pudgy, adorable stuffed lobster (knowing that even as a "grown up" teen I loved stuffed animals!).*

*As I got older we would go out to dinner together & it made me feel so special that you trusted me as we became each other's confidante.*

*I'll always remember how much you enjoyed crosswords & catalogs!*

*And HOW many times did we go see movies starring your favorite actor Oskar Werner?!*

*You hosted all of our family holidays & big events. They were always perfect because you demanded perfection & you worked so hard to be sure everyone was happy. Our Christmases were legendary & my fondest memories are of the beautiful decorations, delicious food, so very many laughs, & of course our singing Christmas carols accompanied by mom on the piano! Those memories are the most precious & prized to me, all thanks to you.*

*As we couldn't attend the service, our brother Myles & I together conducted our own special service for you over the phone at the exact time your service was taking place in Fort Myers Beach. We prayed & fondly reminisced, then he suggested we end our loving tribute to you by playing a favorite song of yours, Andrea Bocelli's "Con Te Partiro" ("Time To Say Goodbye").*

*I know our "goodbye" is temporary, but for now there is a hole left in my heart that no one else can fill other than my Beautiful & Beloved Big Sister.*

*Until we are united again, know that I remember & I know you are still listening!!*

*I love you Favorite Sister!*

*Your Favorite Sister,  
Regina*

*P.S. And now you know.....peace really does exist!*

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**Regina McGrath** - March 18, 2017 at 02:18 PM

MF

*Wow, Regina, just wow! What a beautiful tribute.... I, too, have fond memories of days gone by of Mary Cay. I could never get used to calling her Aunt Mary Cay because I used to go with Uncle Bob to your house in Waterbury to visit her...long before their marriage! Keep those fond loving memories deep in your heart as you grieve your loss....*

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**mary Lou Fay** - March 19, 2017 at 02:54 PM

SB

*Your heartfelt thoughts Regina were beautifully expressed. We all will cherish our memories of your dear and special sister.*

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**Susan Hill Beaman** - March 19, 2017 at 08:08 PM