

# Mary F. Cleary

November 11th, 1948 - August 1st, 2017



Mary Frances (Roach) Cleary, of St. Petersburg, FL, passed away on August 1, 2017 at the age of 68.

Mary was born to parents Wilma and Dorrell Roach on November 11, 1948 in Bloomington, IN. The eldest of three sisters, Mary grew up in Washington, Mooresville, Muncie, and Evansville, IN before the family moved to Doylestown, PA in 1963. Mary graduated from Central Bucks High School in

Doylestown, in 1966 and earned a degree in Fashion Merchandising in 1969 from Williams College for Women in Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

After graduation, Mary moved to New York to find a career in fashion but instead spent the next 28 years working in the music industry, building on experience she gleaned working for The Electric Factory in Philadelphia in 1968. Commencing with The Millard Agency in New York, after 3 years, Mary moved to San Francisco to work for FM Productions (Bill Graham). However, New York beckoned her back and she spent a year at IFA (International Famous Agency) before moving onto Thames Talent as a Booking Agent and later to Record Logic and MK Productions where she assisted the owner and, also did tour management.

In 1980, Mary became a travel agent for the music industry working first in New York for Trinifold Travel and then Four Seasons Travel in St. Petersburg, FL. In addition, Mary operated her own travel/tour agency, R & R Tours. During her years in the rock and roll industry, Mary was honored and proud to have worked with many bands, including the Beach Boys, the Kinks, Santana, The Sensational Alex Harvey Band, A Flock of Seagulls, Iggy Pop, Prince, Deep Purple, Stryper, David Werner, Chic, Simple Minds, Jennifer Holiday, Luther Vandross, and David Essex.

On February 29, 1984, Mary married John Cleary, also a veteran of the music industry, on a boat in Ft. Lauderdale. They initially made their home in Treasure Island, FL and later in St. Petersburg, FL. In 1988, they welcomed Brendyn John to their family and Margaret Ann in 1990. Mary balanced motherhood and work in the music industry until 1998, when she went to work for the St. Petersburg school system and she remained there until she retired on October 31, 2015 from the Pinellas Technical Education Center.

During her years in the music business, Mary was a source of generosity and hospitality to countless friends and acquaintances – always ready to lend a helping hand, prepare a home-cooked meal or do laundry for those far from home. She went beyond the limits of business relationships to form life-long

friendships with so many. This did not change when Mary relocated to Florida where she will be remembered as a passionate volunteer at any-and-all school, club and recreational activities that involved her children and grandchildren.

Mary loved to travel and had the opportunity to circle the world, but she had a special affinity for Scotland and England. She also loved the theatre, particularly Broadway musicals, the fine arts, sports, and festivals of any shape and size. Her family was her everything and she was always planning fun activities for them to share. Mary made the day brighter. She had an adventurous spirit, an incredible zest for life and was always ready with a smile or a kind word for both friends and strangers. Mary will be greatly missed by family and friends, but the memories and happy times will endure.

Mary is survived by her husband, Stephen John Cleary; son Brendyn John Cleary; daughter, Margaret Ann Cleary; mother, Wilma L. (Pettijohn) Roach; sisters Beverly Ricks (Bob) and Susan Diatlovich (Paul); four grandchildren, Skyler (10), Marley (6), Seabastian (4), and Aurora (3); two nieces, Jessica Ricks and Anna Diatlovich; and one nephew, Victor Diatlovich. She is preceded in death by her father, Dorrell C. Roach.