



## Mary Ann (O'Keefe) Nelson

February 16, 1933 - July 3, 2018

### Biography

STERLING – Mary Ann (O'Keefe) Nelson, 85, a devoted educator, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 3, 2018 at Sterling Village. She was born in Leominster, the daughter of John and Helen (Childs) O'Keefe and had lived in Leominster before moving to Sterling 58 years ago.

She leaves her loving husband of 58 years, Roland A. Nelson; her three children, Katherine (Nelson) Sullivan and her husband, Thomas of Sheffield, James Nelson of Westminster and Linda (Nelson) Dube and her husband, Michael of Sterling; six grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Mary was predeceased by her son, Peter R. Nelson and her sisters, Helen (Kendall) Hill and Bernice (Kendall) Adams.

Mary graduated from Leominster High School and earned her Bachelor's Degree in Education from the State Teachers College at Fitchburg. She was a primary grade school teacher in the Sterling Schools for over forty years before retiring in 2000, at which time she returned to teaching as a long term substitute. Mary received the Distinguished Service Award for her dedication to education. Mary was a wonderful storyteller to her family, friends and students and her whole life was devoted to teaching. She was a member of The First Church in Sterling where she taught Sunday School and was an avid reader, baker, gardener and enjoyed knitting.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend calling hours from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Friday, July 6th in the Miles-Sterling Funeral and Tribute Center, 100 Worcester Road, Sterling. A private committal service will be held at the Massachusetts Veterans' Memorial Cemetery in Winchendon. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Town of Sterling Fire Dept, Ambulance Fund, P.O. Box 515, Sterling, MA 01564. To share a memory or offer an online condolence, please visit "Guest Book."

# Comments

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“ Dear Rollie & family,

So very sorry for your loss. Mary Anne was a very Special Lady!! We would be there tonight if we could, still in Maine on vacation. Sending very heartfelt sympathy, Love & Prayers Marianne & John Powers

**Marianne Powers** - July 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ Roland and Family,

Please accept my sincere condolence for the loss of Ann. I will remember all of you in my prayers during your time of sorrow

Respectfully,  
Paul Sullivan

**Paul Sullivan** - July 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Linda, Michael and family,

My condolences to your family on the passing of your mother/grandmother. May her memory be eternal. God bless.

**Ann Vangos** - July 06, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ Dear Uncle Roland, Kathy, Jimmy, Linda and family: Thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time. Remember people pass on, but their memory lives on in our hearts forever. Also, remember all the wonderful times you shared together it will get you through this.

**Kim Nelson-Teixeira** - July 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ To all the families may Mary Ann rest in peace  
With her loving family  
God bless

**Sherry devone** - July 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM

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“ Sending my sincere condolences to the Nelson family. Mrs. Nelson was my first grade teacher at Butterick School in Sterling over 40 years ago. She was an amazing teacher and is remembered fondly. May she Rest In Peace and you find comfort and joy in your memories. God bless our public school teachers.

**Christina (Lizotte) Thomas** - July 05, 2018 at 12:00 AM