



Mary Eleanor Van Meter

May 1, 1938 - November 17, 2024

Mary Eleanor Van Meter, a beloved member of the Mardela Springs community, passed away on Sunday, November 17, 2024, at the age of 86. Born in Athol, MD on May 1, 1938, Mary was a daughter of the late Claude Allen Cordrey and Ruth Hatton Cordrey and proud 1957 graduate of Mardela High School.

Eleanor dedicated over five decades of her life to serving Wicomico County Public Schools as the Owner and Operator of Bus #131, where she not only transported students but multiple generations of her own family. Her commitment to the education and safety of children was unparalleled, and her impact on the community was immeasurable. During the summer months, Eleanor could be found behind the wheel of Camp Odyssey's bus, ensuring that countless children enjoyed enriching experiences.

In addition to her work with the school system, she also contributed to Mardela High School's cafeteria, nourishing students with care and kindness. A devout member of Athol Baptist Church, in her younger years Eleanor served as Children's Choir Director and Sunday School teacher, sharing her faith and love with the youth of her congregation.

Eleanor's passion for Southern Gospel music was evident to all who knew her. She rarely missed a hymn sing within a 25-mile radius, showcasing her unwavering devotion to the songs that brought her joy and comfort throughout her life. Her family meant the world to her and she was always supportive and in attendance at any activity her children, grandchildren and great-

grandchildren were involved in. Eleanor also had a love and appreciation for nature, and especially loved her hummingbirds.

The past 2 years she was a resident of and called Wicomico Nursing Home, her home. She loved being there. She was known to all as "The Mayor." She served as president of the Resident Council and was proudly crowned the 2024 Senior Prom Queen, If there was an activity going on she was there front and center and encouraging other residents to "come and join in the fun." The family would like to offer a special thank you to the administration and entire staff of Wicomico Nursing Home for the care, compassion, socialization and most of all the love you have given to their mother.

Eleanor is survived by her loving children, son, Robert Allen Van Meter, Sr. and wife Joan, daughters, Dee Calloway, Wendy Catlin-Hamblin and husband, Ed and Janet Fox and husband, Andy; grandchildren, April, Brandon, Robbie, Thomas, Nathan, Katie and Jessie; 16 great grandchildren; and sisters-in-law, Violet Bedsworth and Linda Johnson. Her memory will live on in the hearts of all who were fortunate enough to have known her.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 56 years, Robert W. Van Meter, a sister, who died at birth, Martha Cordrey, a grandson, Thomas Calloway and a great grandson, Mason Hunt.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, November, 21, 2024 from 5:00 pm to 7:00 at Short Funeral Home in Delmar, and also on Friday from 10:00 am to 11:00. Funeral services will follow at 11:00 a.m. Reverend Wayne Holland will officiate. Interment will follow at Mardela Memorial Cemetery. In honor of her wishes, her son Bob and all 7 grandchildren will serve as pallbearers.

Memorial contributions may be made in her memory to Wicomico Nursing Home, Activities Department, 900 Booth Street, Salisbury, MD 21801.

Arrangements are in the care of Short Funeral Home in Delmar. Online condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.shortfh.com.

Cemetery Details

Mardela Memorial Cemetery

Mardela Springs, MD 21837

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV **21**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 East Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525
info@shortfh.com

Visitation

NOV **22**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 East Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525
info@shortfh.com

Funeral Service

NOV **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 East Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525
info@shortfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Short Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Mary Eleanor Van Meter*



Short Funeral Home - November 21, 2024 at 10:47 PM

ST

Mrs Eleanor was a very nice lady to work for and she was awesome

Semuel Thompson - December 08, 2024 at 10:22 PM

WG

“ *Bob, Dee, Joan and Family. I'm so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. i always enjoyed talking with her in the OLD DAYS down in Athol. May she rest in peace. William M. Glime*

William M. Glime - November 24, 2024 at 07:45 PM

FB

“ One thing I can say, I love the Van Meter family. As some of you know my daddy was the minister at the First Baptist Church in Mardela Springs years ago. The first day we arrived in Mardela Mr. Robert and Miss Eleanor were there to help. Mr. Robert had to leave early because he had to go coon hunting and he took some of his kids and I got to go, that was a new experience for me. Mrs. Eleanor lead the church choir, being the preacher's daughter I had to be there. I have told this story so many times to my children and grandchildren. Miss Eleanor told me that I really didn't need to be there.😭😭😭😭. All my children and grandchildren agree she was right. I felt like Belinda and I were sitting right there with you. We cried and we laughed with you. You guys should be so proud that was a wonderful service. I'm not real sure who leads the choir in heaven, but I'm sure they have been asked to move and now Miss Eleanor's leading the choir. To Janet, Dee, Wendy and Robert I love you guys. May your days be filled with love and memories. I certainly am praying for you and I love you so much.

Frankie Bailey - November 22, 2024 at 08:33 PM



“ Condolences to your wonderful family. I was so blessed to have been part of your family for many years. And still consider everyone my Mardela family that I will never forget. Eleanor was an amazing women. The best bus driver around. I always loved hanging out with her.
Please reach out if you need anything. Love to you all. XOXO

Allison Hager - November 21, 2024 at 12:20 PM

MC

“ With deepest sympathy as you remember your loved one.
3 trees were plant in memory of Mary Eleanor Van Meter.
from Melodie Carter, Ryan, Dianna, and Savanna Carter/ Evan,
Jessica, Ben and Elaina Carter.

MELODIE EVANS CARTER - November 20, 2024 at 10:19 AM

ME

“ Melodie E. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Eleanor Van Meter.

Melodie E. - November 20, 2024 at 10:07 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Eleanor Van Meter.



November 20, 2024 at 06:35 AM