



Mary Elaine McGinnis

October 15, 1929 - October 31, 2025

Mary Elaine McGinnis (Franchett), age 96, passed away peacefully on October 31, 2025, in Lebanon, Missouri. Born on October 15, 1929, in Kansas City, Kansas, Mary lived a wonderful life defined by family, resilience, service, and unwavering faith.

A lifelong homemaker with the heart of a pioneer, Mary's family always came first in her life, and they gave her the greatest joy. She had seven children, whom she loved dearly. Mary never let convention or challenge stand in her way. She broke barriers as the first female bus driver for the Marion C. Early School District in Morrisville, Missouri—a role she embraced with determination and pride. Her dedication to education continued as she drove Polk County students to vocational school in Louisburg, Missouri, ensuring young people had access to opportunities that could shape their futures.

When her children had grown and left home, Mary embarked on a new chapter by earning her Missouri Real Estate license. She quickly distinguished herself as one of the top salespeople at Carol Jones Realtors. Later, after moving to Bolivar, she joined Peterson Real Estate and continued her successful career. Her leadership and commitment to excellence led her to serve as president of the Polk County Real Estate Association. For a period of about eight years, Mary lived in New Orleans, where she worked as a school secretary and was very active in St. Matthews Catholic Church.

Mary's deep Catholic faith was a cornerstone of her life. She was an active member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, where she sang in the choir and volunteered tirelessly on various committees. Her devotion extended to serving on the church board and playing a key role in the Sacred Heart Church building committee. Her faith remained steadfast throughout her life and inspired all who knew her.

Even into her 80s and 90s, Mary gave generously of her time and energy. She volunteered at the Alpha House in Bolivar and worked several days a week at the Bolivar Senior Center. Always looking out for others, she often drove fellow seniors to doctor appointments, church services, shopping trips, and community events—offering not just transportation but companionship and kindness.

Mary's legacy is carried on by her children: Ricki Rigby of River Ridge, LA; Richard McGinnis and his wife Danna of Shawnee, KS; Mike McGinnis of Dunnegan, MO; and Pat McGinnis and his wife Debbie, of Lebanon, MO. She is also remembered by her sisters Theresa Brown (Jim) and Sister Katherine Franchett (SCL), as well as sisters-in-law Gladys Franchett (Paul), and Marcia Franchett (Philip); her grandchildren, Brittany, Riley (Diana), Erin (Chris), Courtney (Jordan), Jeffrey (Amber), Jordan (Luciana), Caleb, Michael (Justine), Kevin, Scott (Lori), Troy (Dayna), Shane (Deanna), Leah (Marcus), Jennifer (Mark), and Bobby; her great-grandchildren, Boone, Emily, Jenni, Justin, Morgan, Connor, Gavin, Troy Jr., Mackenzie, Heidi, Chloe, Coleman, Paige, Jacob, Avery, Eli, Oliver, Milo, Noah, and Liam; her great-great-grandchildren, Emmett, and Roy.

She now joins in eternal rest her beloved husband, Richard McGinnis; daughters Cindy McGinnis and Diana Morton; son Allen McGinnis; parents Ed and Gladys Franchett; brothers Gene Franchett, Philip Franchett, Paul Franchett, son in law Les Rigby; and John Pfitzner.

Mary was immensely proud of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren. Her strength of spirit, love for life, and boundless generosity left an indelible mark on everyone she met—from family members to coworkers to fellow parishioners and friends. Those who knew Mary will remember her as an inspiration—a kind and loving person that organized bake sales with joy, hosted Sunday dinners with warmth, and brought people together through compassion and grace. Her ability to see the good in others was a gift that uplifted countless lives. Mary is now in heaven, reunited with family and friends. She very likely is organizing committees, Sunday gatherings and social activities. God called her home as he needed someone with her strength, abilities and organizational skills.

May Mary's memory bring comfort to all who were blessed to know her.

A visitation and rosary service will be held from 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM on Friday, November 7, 2025, at Butler Funeral Home in Bolivar.

A funeral mass will take place at 10:30 AM on Saturday, November 8, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Bolivar.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alpha House or Beautification of the Garden Space at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Burial will take place at St. Wenceslaus Cemetery in Karlin.

Cemetery Details

St. Wenceslaus

State Hwy U
Bolivar, MO 65613

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 7. 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Rosary

NOV 7. 7:30 PM (CT)

Butler Funeral Home - Bolivar
407 E. Broadway
Bolivar, MO 65613
(417) 326-5233
<https://butlerfuneralhome.com/>

Requiem Mass

NOV 8. 10:30 AM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
1405 W Fair Play St
Bolivar, MO 65613

Tribute Wall

KP

“ Kelly & Myra Piercy purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.



Kelly & Myra Piercy - November 07, 2025 at 10:44 AM

MG

“ Mike and Bilinda Garlock purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.



Mike and Bilinda Garlock - November 07, 2025 at 09:02 AM

LS

“ Love, Mark and Jennifer Snyder purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.



Love, Mark and Jennifer Snyder - November 06, 2025 at 11:23 PM

MS

“ Mary Stryker purchased the Simply Elegant Spatifolium for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.



Mary Stryker - November 06, 2025 at 06:48 PM

FQ

“ From Roberta Quinn purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.



From Roberta Quinn - November 06, 2025 at 05:24 PM

FQ

“ From Roberta Quinn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Elaine McGinnis.

From Roberta Quinn - November 06, 2025 at 05:24 PM

RQ

“ I remember her so well when she lived here. She was my best friends, Diane,, mother. So many times she called me her third daughter. I could not remember the boys name's, so I called them one, two, three and four. What a sweet lady she was. Ricki. I know you will be upset for awhile, I will be thinking about you.

Roberta Quinn - November 06, 2025 at 05:11 PM

MF

“ M,M,L,T,M and A Franchett purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.



M,M,L,T,M and A Franchett - November 06, 2025 at 04:23 PM

MF

“ *Marcia Franchett and family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.*



Marcia Franchett and family - November 06, 2025 at 12:55 PM

AP

“ *Alpha House PRC purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.*



Alpha House PRC - November 05, 2025 at 01:05 PM

JM

“ *Jeff & Lisa Mutchler purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.*



Jeff & Lisa Mutchler - November 04, 2025 at 09:34 PM

JM

“ *Jeff & Lisa Mutchler planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Elaine McGinnis.*

Jeff & Lisa Mutchler - November 04, 2025 at 09:34 PM



“ *Heavenly Heights Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.*



November 04, 2025 at 06:37 PM



“ *From the Paul & Gladys Franchett family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.*



From the Paul & Gladys Franchett family - November 04, 2025 at 02:52 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mary Elaine McGinnis.*



November 04, 2025 at 12:22 PM



“ *Love, Teresa & Jim Brown, (Tina Joyce) planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Elaine McGinnis.*

Love, Teresa & Jim Brown, (Tina Joyce) - November 04, 2025 at 12:22 PM

RB

“ *Mary was my school bus driver as a kid at Morrisville. When she was a realtor, we did many transactions together. Great lady and always smiling! She will be missed!!*

russ batten - November 03, 2025 at 05:37 PM