



Mary Carolyn Parsons

December 15, 1940 - June 19, 2025

Mary Carolyn Parsons, beloved mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister and friend passed away peacefully on Thursday, June 19, 2025. Mary was born in Charleston, West Virginia on December 15, 1940, to parents James L Parsons and Helma L. Parsons.

In 1958, Mary graduated high school from Stonewall Jackson High in Charleston, West Virginia. Throughout her early adulthood, Mary dedicated herself to being a loving and supportive mother to her four children. As her children grew older, Mary began her career as an administrative assistant at Polk State College. Her time at Polk State spanned many years. During her time, she built strong relationships with colleagues and students, earning respect for her professionalism and positive attitude. She later retired in 2009.

Mary loved to spend her time baking for her family and vacationing at Estero Island in Fort Myers Beach. She will be remembered for her warm and caring nature, which touched the lives of many around her.

She is preceded in death by her parents and grandmother Ludema Moris.

She is survived by her brother, David F. Parsons; daughters Laura Gagne (Gerry), Valerie Gay, Alison Moss (Jay); son Perry Gay (Keva); grandsons Riley, Liam, Evan, and Finley Gay; grandsons Daniel Heath (Amanda), Dustin

Dusenbury, and Hunter Moss; granddaughters Abbey Moss and Nichole Gagne (Liz); great grandsons Aiden and Jacob Heath; great granddaughters Myah and Hailey Heath.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 1:00 PM, Gentry-Morrison Funeral Home at Serenity Gardens.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL **16**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - Serenity Gardens Chapel

3350 Mall Hill Drive

Lakeland, FL 33810

(863) 858-4474

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<https://www.gentry-morrison.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes created a Tribute Video in memory of Mary Carolyn Parsons*



Gentry-Morrison Funeral Homes - July 15, 2025 at 03:45 PM

DP

Beautiful video tribute to my precious sister.

David Franklin Parsons - July 16, 2025 at 11:32 AM

DP

Thank you to everyone who put together this poignant video.

David Parsons - July 17, 2025 at 02:33 PM

VD

Thank you for being a loving brother to Mom. She loved you, we all love you. ☐

Valerie Gay (daughter)-. - July 17, 2025 at 11:34 PM

VD

Laura picked the pictures and couldn't have done a better job. I've watched this several times so far.

Valerie Gay (daughter)-. - July 17, 2025 at 11:37 PM

JC

I'm honored to be shown here. RIP B, Mary Carolyn. You were loved.

judy Carrino - July 18, 2025 at 12:33 AM

VD

Thank you Judy. She mentioned you quite a bit and surely loved you as well. 💕💕

Valerie Gay (daughter)- - July 18, 2025 at 03:43 AM

DP

Thanks, Valerie. Laura did a great job picking the pictures. It was good to see the photo of Sis in the black velvet dress behind you all. That was your Mom's favorite photo of herself.

David Parsons - July 18, 2025 at 01:11 PM

KM

I just want to say that Mary was a mom to all of us as well as a friend later in life. She was so supportive to many of us. I was saddened by the news of her passing. I'm blessed to have known her and her family. You're gonna be missed. RIP always Momma 🙏❤️

Kimm Moore - August 20, 2025 at 01:19 AM

B

“ *You and I stuck with each other at Polk Community College. Always a true true friend with a kind heart! Rest in peace special one! You are truly missed! I Will Always Love You Mare! Love,
Bari (The Bear)*

Bari Chapin - October 29, 2025 at 05:12 AM

BF

“ To Mary's family - My heart was saddened to learn of Mary's passing. She was a dear, dear friend and valued colleague at Polk State College. She had a wonderful ability to connect with students. She was a great listener and her bonds with the students was a key to our early success at the Collegiate High School. We all loved the special occasions when she would bake her chocolate & lemon cakes. We shared so much during those years. She loved her family and was very proud of you all. I am so blessed to have known her and worked with her. My sincere condolences to all of you.
Bridget Fetter

Bridget Fetter - July 23, 2025 at 08:20 AM

DP

“ David F. Parsons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Carolyn Parsons.

David F. Parsons - July 16, 2025 at 07:53 AM

DP

“ David F. Parsons purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary Carolyn Parsons.



David F. Parsons - July 16, 2025 at 07:53 AM

HF

“ Hall family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Carolyn Parsons.

Hall family - July 15, 2025 at 05:07 PM

HF

“ *Hall family purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mary Carolyn Parsons.*



Hall family - July 15, 2025 at 05:07 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mary Carolyn Parsons.*



July 14, 2025 at 08:51 PM

RO

“ *Mary, you will be missed. You will forever hold a special place in my heart. You lit up the room with your presence and you always managed to put a smile on my face. I loved talking with you. Your love for your family was undeniable especially for your children. I pray you are at peace and that your family will take comfort in knowing how very special you are.*



Rosa - July 14, 2025 at 10:17 AM

VD

Thank you so very much for all the kind words Rosa. We miss her dearly but it makes it a lil' easier to know how much she impacted those who knew her. I take comfort knowing she is no longer in pain and surely in the presence of our Lord.

Valerie Gay (daughter)- - July 18, 2025 at 04:03 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mary Carolyn Parsons.



July 11, 2025 at 05:56 PM



“ If I had to share ALL the precious memories of my sister, Mary Carolyn Parsons, it would fill a huge bookcase. I cherish all the time I had with my sister. Sis had a way of lighting up a room with her presence. She touched the lives of many people and lived life to the fullest.

David Parsons - July 05, 2025 at 04:43 AM



We love you Uncle David 💙

Mom had a great life and collected many wonderful memories along the ways. They'll never be another like her. She was the most wonderful Mother. I never realized how wonderful until she was gone. She always made sure we were well taken care of and always let us know how special we were. If I was depressed I'd call her and hang up feeling so much better. She was beautiful in every way and I'll miss her dearly for the v□

Valerie Gay (daughter)-. - July 17, 2025 at 11:15 PM



Plz forgive the typing errors.

Valerie Gay (daughter)-. - July 17, 2025 at 11:18 PM



Don't worry about it.

David Parsons - July 18, 2025 at 01:13 PM

DP

Uncle David loves all of you and is very proud of you.

David Parsons - July 18, 2025 at 01:27 PM

DP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



David Parsons - July 04, 2025 at 04:47 PM

DP

James L. Parsons and Helma L. Parsons, parents of Mary Carolyn Parsons and David Franklin Parsons, June 1933. Photo taken not long after they married in Charleston, WV.

David Parsons - July 04, 2025 at 04:53 PM

VD



Valerie Gay (daughter)-. - July 17, 2025 at 11:44 PM

DP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



David Parsons - July 04, 2025 at 03:45 PM

DP

Mary Carolyn Parsons, 1962.

David Parsons - July 04, 2025 at 04:31 PM

JC

Such a beauty!

judy Carrino - July 07, 2025 at 03:49 PM

VD

My favorite picture of Mom ☐

Valerie Gay (daughter)-. - July 18, 2025 at 03:33 PM

DP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



David Parsons - July 04, 2025 at 03:36 PM

DP

Mary Carolyn Parsons in a WV Centennial tourism magazine with British tourist, 1963.

David Parsons - July 04, 2025 at 04:34 PM

VD

I never knew the story behind this picture but I knew it was anything but ordinary. Thank you for sharing 😊

Valerie Gay (daughter)-. - July 18, 2025 at 03:34 PM

DP

Your mother was part of the WV Centennial Commission and loved her job. The date of the official Centennial was June, 20, 1963. President Kennedy spoke at the main ceremony. Sis was often in publicity photos promoting the event.

David Parsons - July 29, 2025 at 08:29 AM

DP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



David Parsons - July 04, 2025 at 03:32 PM

DP

Mary Carolyn Parsons, Cocoa Beach, FL, 1956.

David Parsons - July 04, 2025 at 04:36 PM

MT

“ My friend for more years than I care to remember. Fun and laughs and many talks. I know she is in a better place and happy once again. Many prayers were made for her and I know God has her now and she is making everyone smile.

MARY TOWNSON - July 03, 2025 at 05:52 PM

VD

Thank you Mary. She spoke of you often and loved the times you two spent together. I can only imagine all the beautiful memories 💕💕

Valerie Gay (daughter)-. - July 17, 2025 at 11:46 PM

DP

Sis thought the world of you, Mary. I feel the same way.

David Parsons - July 18, 2025 at 01:24 PM

DP

“ I miss Sis's delicious cooking among many other things. I could write a book.

David Parsons - July 03, 2025 at 05:20 PM

VD

You and me both. She loved to cook. We loved everything she made.



Valerie Gay (daughter)- - July 17, 2025 at 11:48 PM

DP

Granny said your Mom outdid her and our Mom in the kitchen. That is quite a compliment.

David Parsons - July 18, 2025 at 01:17 PM

VD

You bet it is. Her pasta salad was a hit to anyone who had the chance to try it. There were only 4 ingredients but nobody could ever match it if they tried to. It was her loving touch, it truly was.

Valerie Gay (daughter)- - July 18, 2025 at 03:40 PM

DP

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



David Parsons - July 03, 2025 at 05:10 PM

DP

I never called my sister "Mary Carolyn". I always called her "Sis". She always wanted to laugh or try to be happy no matter what life threw at her. The childhood memories I have of Sis are priceless and can never be taken away from me.

David Parsons - July 04, 2025 at 05:58 AM

DP

Mary Carolyn Parsons and Judy Kennedy Carrino hosting my seventh birthday party, August 29, 1948.

David Parsons - July 04, 2025 at 04:38 PM

VD

You have the best photos! Thank you for sharing them.

Valerie Gay (daughter)- - July 17, 2025 at 11:49 PM

DP

Thanks, Valerie. Your Mom and Judy were perfect young ladies.

David Parsons - July 18, 2025 at 01:20 PM

VD

No doubt they were. I know Granny played a role. Granny had better posture than women half her age and always dressed impeccably.

Valerie Gay (daughter)- - July 18, 2025 at 03:43 PM

DP

“ 2 files added to the album Tribute Photos



David Parsons - July 03, 2025 at 04:48 PM

VD

Two more of my favorites. They're all my favorites 😊

Valerie Gay (daughter)- - July 18, 2025 at 03:46 PM