



Mary Catherine Hafner

April 17, 1936 - May 30, 2024

Mary Catherine Hafner (formerly Stanley), age 88, of Medford, NJ, passed peacefully on May 30, 2024 with her two daughters and son-in-law at her side.

Born to Harry and Marie (Mellor) Stanley on April 7, 1936 and raised in Dayton, Ohio, she graduated from Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School in 1954. She worked briefly for Bell Telephone after graduating, then joined the US Navy as part of the WAVE program, setting her sights on the air traffic control program. In 1959 she broke the record for highest score on the Air Controlman Class A exam, earning a near-perfect score. In her nine years in the Navy, she was stationed all over the country, including Hawaii, Washington, DC, Kansas, and New Jersey, and simultaneously took college courses.

After leaving the Navy she worked as a secretary in Philadelphia, where she met her future husband, George J. Hafner. George was a former Catholic priest who left the church after publicly challenging its teachings and traditions. They were married in Philadelphia in May 1969 and later settled in New Jersey where they raised two daughters.

After losing her husband suddenly in 1980, Mary continued to raise her girls in Mount Laurel, returning to work and finishing her college coursework at night. She worked in the legal field as a secretary and paralegal until 2009 when she

retired at age 73. A lifelong avid reader, Mary continued to devour several books a week through her retirement. After a stroke in 2022 limited her mobility, she moved to Brookdale Senior Living in Voorhees where she made new friends and added her beautiful singing voice to their choir.

She is survived by her daughters Christie Brunt and Melissa Hafner, sons-in-law Timothy Brunt and Jason Beal, granddaughters Molly and Lyla Beal, and younger brother David Stanley. Preceded in death by her husband George, brother Lowell (Sonny), and sister Marilyn (Stanley) Evans.

To honor Mary's wishes, the family will forego a funeral and instead hold a private celebration of her life.

Tribute Wall

FS

“ *Fillis And Byron Samuel sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Catherine Hafner* ”



Fillis and Byron Samuel - June 03, 2024 at 12:28 AM



Thank you for remembering my mom.

Timothy Brunt - June 14, 2024 at 05:34 PM



-Christie Hafner Brunt

Timothy Brunt - June 14, 2024 at 05:34 PM

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“ *Fillis And Byron Samuel lit a candle in memory of Mary Catherine Hafner* ”



Fillis and Byron Samuel - June 03, 2024 at 12:26 AM