



Mary Chmara

July 10, 1935 - May 20, 2022

Mary Eleanor Chmara, 86 of Bridgeport, WV formerly of Bluefield died Friday May 20, 2022 in Bridgeport. Mary was born July 10, 1935 in Williamson, WV and the daughter of the late Thomas Eugene Blankenship and Helen Clifton Reed Blankenship. Mary was a graduate of Iaeger High School and a 1957 graduate of Concord College, she received her Masters through Radford University. She taught school for 48 years in the Mercer County schools and was loved by many of her students. She was also a member of Edgemont Baptist Church. In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by a nephew, Gary Chmara.

In addition to her parents she was preceded in death by her husband John Chmara in 2003.

Surviving Mary is her son John Chmara of Denver, CO. and his wife Tamara. Grandchildren: Hailey Davis, Mason Davis; Great-Grandchildren: Juniper White. Nephews; Paul Chmara (Sheri) Cranberry, PA, John Chmara (Betty) Yorba Linda, CA

Funeral services will be Wednesday June 1, 2022 at 2:00 PM at the Mercer Funeral Home Chapel with the Rev. Chris Roberts officiating. The family will receive friends on Wednesday at the funeral home from 1:00 until 2:00pm. Burial will follow at the Monte Vista Park Cemetery in Green Valley.

Bluefield High School has formed the Mary Chmara Portrait Fund to honor Mrs. Chmara's years of service as an English teacher and as the director of the school Media Center. The Portrait Committee will commission an artist to paint an oil portrait which will be placed in the Mary Chmara Media Center at Bluefield High School.

Those wishing to share memories or condolence messages with the family may do so by visiting www.MercerFuneralHome.com Mercer Funeral Home & Crematory is serving the family of Mary Chmara.

Cemetery Details

Monte Vista Park Cemetery

Bluefield, WV 24701

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 1. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Funeral Service

JUN 1. 2:00 PM (ET)

Mercer Funeral Home Chapel
1231 West Cumberland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Chmara*

October 05, 2023 at 06:08 PM



“ *Mary was a wonderful neighbor to all of us here on the 'Crest. She always stopped to talk if she saw you out in the yard. She was devoted to her mother and took excellent care of her for many years. We will miss you Mary.*

Lois Henderson - June 01, 2022 at 12:41 PM



“ *I had the privilege of being Mary Chmara's neighbor for 29 years. She was the epitome of elegance & class. Mary was kind, generous & thoughtful to all those that knew her. She never made a trip out of town without bringing back special bakery goodies to share. She loved her family & took such wonderful care of her aging mother. Mary loved Bluefield High School & was extremely dedicated to her students & always a fierce supporter of the Beavers! My sons & I are so fortunate to have Mary as part of our daily lives. I loved her like family & miss her everyday but I rejoice knowing she is in the arms of Jesus. ❤️*

Kerry Wright Buzzo - June 01, 2022 at 05:03 AM

VC

“What a “tour de force” you were, Mary Chmara, and will remain, in the hearts & minds of all the many people whose lives you touched! You truly were the best English teacher I ever had! When many years later, I returned to this area & had the pleasure of seeing you again, I observed p you never did ANYTHING halfway. The passion with which you cared for your aged Mother was so admirable; your love of substitute teaching...it was your lifeline....until the pandemic hit; your appreciation of quality & beauty in all things & your generosity & kindness toward those around you were all part of what made you one of a kind. When little Mason came into your life, you shone with joy once again, because here was a child you could teach, love, & influence as only a dedicated teacher knows how to do! God grant you eternal rest with the saints, Mary Chmara, where there is no more pain or sorrow!

Virginia Chryssikos - May 31, 2022 at 08:42 PM

CW

“My condolences to the family of Mrs. Chmara. I had the pleasure of meeting her about 37 years ago when I starting teaching at Bluefield High School. She became a very special friend. She is the reason I starting drinking coffee!!. When I left BHS she gave me a Frog to remember her. LOL. I keep it on a bookshelf in my home office.. It has special memories of a wonderful lady. Until we meet again, rest In peace my friend.



Carolyn Williams - May 30, 2022 at 10:58 PM

BE

“ It was very sad for me to learn about the passing of Mary Chmara. I feel both fortunate and blessed to have had her for English and Literature all my 3 years at Bluefield High School. She was the consummate professional when it came to conducting her classes and making sure that we learned the subject matter in great detail. I'm not very good at math or science but feel that I'm pretty proficient at reading, writing and grammar. And whatever I know in those areas, I owe to Mary Chmara.

I can truly say that Mary Chmara was the best teacher, by far, that I ever had from kindergarten through graduate school. Many of her students feel the same way. She will be sorely missed by all who knew and learned so much from her. May she Rest In Peace. Bill Evans

Bill Evans - May 29, 2022 at 10:11 PM

BH

“ Mary Chmara was the best English Grammar Teacher as well as writing teacher, I ever had. I breezed through all the undergraduate required courses as well as graduate courses that were required to become an English teacher.

She was so inspirational I know she is the reason I became an English teacher.

It will be interesting to see how many of her students became English teachers because of Mary Blankenship/Chmara's influence.

Bob Harrison - May 29, 2022 at 06:28 PM

JS

“ John & Kathy Shott purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Mary Chmara.



John & Kathy Shott - May 27, 2022 at 05:13 PM

JS

“ The epitome of an exceptionally effective teacher. Committed to bringing out the best in each of her students and fiercely loyal to BHS. No teacher/professor had a more positive influence on my educational development than Ms. Blankenship. Was fortunate to have numerous interactions with her in the years following my graduation. May she rest in eternal peace (she certainly earned it).
John Shott

John Shott - May 27, 2022 at 05:08 PM



“ Mrs. Chmara, a woman of grace, faith and love. It was my pleasure to be taught the card catalog and the Dewey Decimal system from her. I served as her aid for 3 years and assisted her with anything she needed. I was not always the best student, but she always saw the best in me. She lead me down a path that after several years, I found and walk today. She touched my life, and spread the joy of our Lord to me. For those that did not know her, you missed out. May you walk on the golden streets, you shall be missed!

Adam East - May 26, 2022 at 10:37 PM

HF

“ Mrs Chmara taught me and 4 of my brothers and sisters. She was Miss Blankenship to my siblings and taught English. For me, she was Mrs Chmara and was our BHS librarian. Many years later, my daughter knew her also at BHS. She absolutely left a legacy. Godspeed Mrs Chmara.

Helen Fowler - May 26, 2022 at 10:21 AM

GK

“ Loved her. She was Mary Blankenship when she taught me in high school. Had the pleasure of being John's student also. The last i saw her was at our 50th reunion. She was just as charming as ever. Class lady all the way

Gene Kirk - May 26, 2022 at 07:07 AM

DN

“ I had the pleasure of working with Mary at the high school. At times we worked all week end and till 1 or 2 in the morning .She was always prepared for her students and she loved them all.We shared a lot of laughs and good times. I admired Mary because she was beautiful inside and out. She was all class and I will miss her.Rest in peace sweet lady.

Debbie Neal - May 25, 2022 at 10:35 PM

JO

“ When you look up the word genteel in *Mariam-Webster's Unabridged dictionary*, it doesn't list the name *Mary Chmara*. But it should. She was the epitome of the word; she was stylish, elegant, graceful and polite. But, above all, she was a kind-hearted friend to anyone who had the pleasure of knowing her. She loved the Lord. She loved her family. And she loved her students. And those things, in the end, are the greatest gifts any one person can leave as their legacy.

Jarrodd O'Dell - May 25, 2022 at 07:31 PM

WP

Ament to all of that! Very well said.

Wayne Pelts - May 26, 2022 at 09:25 AM

DM

“ *Such a sweet lady and wonderful teacher. May she rest in peace.*

Diane Hughes Mullen - May 25, 2022 at 06:20 PM

K(

“ *Mary was such a sweet and kind person. She was a dear friend to my mom and I know she impacted many lives at BHS.*

Kim Parsons, (Henderson) - May 25, 2022 at 03:29 PM

WP

“ *I did not have Mrs. Chmara as an English teacher. At that point, mid 70's, she was the full-time librarian. However, I heard more than a few BHS students relate that they were intimidated by her at first, that they were downright scared of her, but oh, when they went to college, they were indeed prepared and ready to write a proper composition.*

Wayne Pelts - May 25, 2022 at 02:30 PM

JE

“ God bless Ms Mary. She was the sweetest person with a huge heart. ❤️

Jennifer - May 25, 2022 at 02:27 PM

LE

“ May God receive Mary a class lady into her heavenly home. Taught me a lot about oife. God Bless.

Larry Estep - May 25, 2022 at 02:09 PM

CC

“ She was my teacher in high school. Loved her as a person and teacher. A mentor for sure. My heart goes out to her family. Carolyn Hutchinson Coutts

Carolyn Hutchinson Coutts - May 25, 2022 at 01:20 PM

DA

“ Mary (Room 207), me (Room 205) began our BHS days talking & praying. She Loved the Lord, Her Family, & BHS. God Bless!

Duard Addington - May 25, 2022 at 12:10 PM

LQ

“ Mary Elenor and my momma were cousins and grew up together in Williamson. She and I had never met until we moved to blfd in 1969. She caught me smoking in the girls bathroom and initially she had no idea who I was. After a moment she said “I know who you are Linda...you look just like your mother”. She never reported me. I saw her a few years ago at my mommas funeral and we had a very long chat. I reminded her of the incident and she remembered it vividly. I always loved her. Rest in love sweet lady. I will always remember how kind you were to me. ❤️

Linda Dempsey Quillin - May 25, 2022 at 10:21 AM

WP

“ *Mary Chmara was a very devoted woman -- devoted to taking care of her Mother, devoted to Bluefield High School. She was one of a kind.*

Wayne Pelts - May 25, 2022 at 10:08 AM

JR

“ *Although I went to BHS And knew who Mrs Chmara was, I never had her for any classes. I didn't get to know her until I was going to Concord and her son, John and I became friends and used to ride to school at Concord together. She always treated me great and was definitely one of a kind. RIP Ma'am.*

JD Rotenberry - May 25, 2022 at 04:48 AM

CH

I remember her as the teacher there however I never had any classes with her she was a beautiful lady always had a smile profit the family

Connie estep helmiondollar - May 25, 2022 at 08:38 AM

NG

“ *I had ms chmara as a teachers aide in the library in 1994 at BHS. I remember I accidentally took her keys home one day and she had to come and get them. Instead of being mad she brought me donuts, loved her. Rest In Peace ms chmara!*

nikki gilbert - May 25, 2022 at 04:41 AM

BS

“ *Had Mrs Chmara at Bluefield High School my sophomore year. She was a great teacher. My thoughts and prayers to the family.*

Brenda Schuller - May 25, 2022 at 12:01 AM

CJ

“ Taught my junior year English class ! Marvelous lady.. My prayers are with your family

Claude Henderson jr. - May 24, 2022 at 11:01 PM

TA

“ Very good teacher and a very pleasant lady
Prayers for the family

tina allman - May 24, 2022 at 10:48 PM

BL

“ Lovely lady and wonderful teacher! Fond memories! Bob Land

Bob Land - May 24, 2022 at 09:19 PM