



Joan (Marshall) McLean

May 25, 1934 - February 6, 2021

Joan (Marshall) McLean, 86, of Cromwell, wife of The Rev. J. Alan McLean, passed away peacefully Saturday, (February 6) at their home.

Born in Boston, MA she grew up in Sharon, MA, attended local schools and graduated from the Windsor School in Boston. Joan received her Bachelors Degree from Smith College in 1956, and earned a Masters Degree in Library Science from Southern Connecticut State University in 1988. She lived in New Britain for 45 years. She was Librarian at the Watkinson School in Hartford for 10 years and the women's sports coach. For 25 years Joan was a member of the faculty of the Mooreland Hill School in Kensington, serving as Librarian while coaching all girls sport teams seasonally in field hockey, basketball and softball. Upon retirement from Mooreland in 2006, she moved to New London, New Hampshire for 6 years, before returning to Connecticut as a resident of the Covenant Living Senior community in Cromwell. Joan sang during all four of her college years in the elite and internationally acclaimed Smith College Chamber Singers and was a choir member for over 20 years at the South Congregational Church of New Britain, where she chaired the Music Committee. For over a decade, she was a Board Member of Literacy Volunteers of New Britain and served on the Executive Committee as Secretary. From 1978 to 1998, Joan was an active member of The First Church of Christ in Hartford (Center Church).

Besides her husband, Alan, she leaves two sons, Marshall A. McLean of Concord, MA, and David H. McLean of New Britain, two daughters, Kathryn M. Mathias and her husband James of Baltimore, MD, and Amy McLean Salls of Tariffville; two sisters-in-law, Doreen Marshall of Spartanburg, SC, and Cecily Marshall of Worcester, MA, and her brother David Marshall and his wife Cynthia of New London, NH. Joan was predeceased by two brothers Harold T. Marshall, Jr., and Peter B. Marshall. Joan's next generation legacy includes seven grandchildren: Matthew Mathias and his wife Ali of Portland ME, Elizabeth (Laney) Mathias of Somerville, MA, Ben, Charlotte (Cha Cha), and Rose McLean of Concord, MA, and Tucker and Luke Salls of Tariffville.

Joan once wrote: "My appreciation of music – especially my continuing involvement in choral music – provides my ongoing life enrichment." Music not only enriched her life, it provided the means by which she enriched the lives of all who knew her.

Her children and grandchildren will gather privately for Remembrance with the devoted caregivers from the Home Instead Senior Care Agency of Cromwell. A public Memorial Service will take place at The First Church of Christ in Hartford at a future date. There are no calling hours. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting with arrangements. In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be made to the First Church of Christ McLean Benevolence Fund, 60 Gold St. Hartford, CT 06416.

Please share a memory or note of sympathy with Joan's family at www.carlsonfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

DB

“ During our time at Center Church in Hatford, we came to know Joan not only as the wife of the minister, but as a member off the congregation and a true friend. We have thought, and will always think of her as a woman of dignity, grace, and intelligence. When she spoke, we always had the expectation of learning something new or seeing something from a new, and better, perspective. Our thoughts and well wishes go out to Alan and the rest of Joan's family for their loss. She was a unique person in the best possible way.

Denny and Jeri Bothamley

Dennis Bothamley - March 07, 2021 at 04:12 PM

CH

“ I was a child when the McLeans came to Pilgrim Memorial Church so long ago, but they were a bright spot in my life--church was hopeful, bright and fun--and I have never forgotten them. Joan was my Mom's good friend. I looked up to her for her beauty, her energy and bouncy spirit, and her glorious voice in the choir. I remember her children who were younger than I. My heart is with Alan and the whole family in your deep loss. The world was blessed by Joan's presence and I am certain that Jesus delights in her loving, eternal, singing presence.



*Love,
Chris K. S.*

Christine - March 07, 2021 at 12:14 AM

JH

“ To Amy and Family:

It's quite a burden saying good-bye to loved ones in this way. Especially to those who've been holding on to life at the edges for a time, not to mention those who are taken from us in an instant. I never really knew Joan, but with all the stories and pictures I've heard, read, and seen, I too, am sure I would have enjoyed her company. It is equally hard refraining from personalizing life's events such as this one, but having had similar loss in the last few years, I think I can say I understand too well, if only a little, the emotional toll it takes: the sadness, emptiness, love, nostalgia, fear of the unknown, the displaced contempt for death, yet hope and relief that it is or may be "better this way", which itself is hard to accept as it is part of the grieving, as some would offer.

At least however, there is the tempered, if only momentary happiness in seeing friends and loved ones who we've missed and been close to now and in the past who pop up at the precise moment we need them, to help us get through the hard moments of heartache. Although I was unable to see the service today, I'm certain, based on what I have seen with the McLean family, that it was a perfect celebration of her life and a memorable send-off. Our paths may or may not cross again, but in the meantime, may grief give way to renewed hope for the future and a deeper appreciation for life and those who surround us.

- Jim H.

Jim H - February 20, 2021 at 06:20 PM

CT

“ I can recall meeting Joan when I came to Center Church as a intern, she was the kindest and most loving person, and will always be remembered. My deepest condolences and prayers for you all.
Peace Cheryl Thomas

Cheryl Thomas - February 20, 2021 at 11:55 AM

EA

“ To Alan and family, Olga and I appreciated being part of Joan's memorial service through Zoom. It was a lovely service, a wonderful tribute to all that Joan meant to all of you and to us. Our deepest condolences for her loss and prayers for strength during this time of grief. God be with you all and may Joan Marshall McLean rest in peace.

Sincerely and prayerfully,

Efrain and Olga Agosto

Efrain Agosto - February 20, 2021 at 11:51 AM

SC

“ We're so very grateful for Joan's presence in our lives. She was responsible for many great events in our family, including introducing Samuel to Watkinson School, a life changing decision for his future. We have deeply appreciated our time with the church and its members. Alan and Joan helped our family come to this country and guided our Aunt Janet in her life here in Hartford from China. We cherish our many memories together. Sending love and blessings to the McLean family. Love, The Chen Family (Mary, John, Mei Ying, Samuel, Jasmine)

Samuel Chen - February 20, 2021 at 10:50 AM

CZ

*“ We just found out today of the recent passing of Joan. We are so sorry for your loss.
It was very interesting to read about all of Joan’s wonderful talents and accomplishments — she was a true Renaissance Woman. We saw how well you took care of her these last few years and the love you had for each other.
We extend our condolences to Alan in particular, and to Joan’s other family members.
Cathy Zack and Vera Zack*

Cathy Zack - February 19, 2021 at 06:38 PM

RL

*“ I was sad to hear of the passing of Joan and extend my deepest condolences to the McLean family for your loss. I have recalled fond memories of the Senior Pilgrim Fellowship gatherings at your home in New Britain and hope that you can find peace during this time.
Ray Lamont, Jr.*

Ray Lamont - February 18, 2021 at 12:57 PM

JN

“ My deepest sympathies to the McLean family. I have very fond memories as a child spending time at their home in New Britain. Mrs. McLean was a wonderful mother and I will always remember her fondly. My parents always spoke highly of the McLean family and I have my own memories and some with lasting impact on my life. God bless you all and my prayers will be with you during this difficult time.

Julia Galazan Natrass - February 17, 2021 at 09:10 AM



“ *The Donald Friday family have such wonderful South Church memories of Joan and all the McLean family. Our sincere sympathy on the death of your beloved Joan.*

Allison Friday - February 16, 2021 at 05:48 PM

TF

“ *On behalf of the French family my condolences to the McLean family, throughout the years at center church you have always been so kind and welcoming. I pray that you find peace during this difficult time.*

Terrence and Priscilla French - February 16, 2021 at 11:24 AM

RS

“ *My sincerest condolences to the McLean family on your loss. Joan was one of the kindest, most positive and most compassionate women whom I have ever known. She was an inspiration to all the girls who attended Moreland Hill and her legacy lives on in them and in her children.*

Ron Swanson

Ron Swanson - February 15, 2021 at 11:22 AM

LL

“ Mrs. McLean was the very best of everything Mooreland Hill School. She was always encouraging with a smile and included all of us with a Spirit that made us all believe we were the most amazing athletes. Smiling as I write this as clearly some of us were hopeless including this writer! Yet there we were; field hockey, basketball, softball, skiing our hearts out. Victories against those big ol schools like Choate or Kingswood because we believed. Mrs. McLean’s voice is one I’ve never forgotten. Sometimes the tribute to a person who mattered to others is that you hear them from time to time in your mind, and I always have. Thank you Mrs. McLean. My deepest wishes of comfort to your family who I know you cherished. Lots of warmth from London. Lynda Lee Lathan

Lynda Lee Lathan - February 15, 2021 at 09:21 AM

PM

“ Aunt Joan will live in my memory as a constant, sweet reminder of how faith and industry can combine with family to create a meaningful celebration of life. Always at the center of childhood holiday gatherings, her consistent warm and understanding nature made our family special; a refuge and a joy, both exciting and reliable. Religion may have been a bedrock for her, but it was not imposed upon others, rather revealed through ordinary charity and purposeful life's work.

I miss Joan's focus on family, laughter, food and everlasting search for wholesome fun. I will forever cherish her place in my life. She helped raise some of the best people I know, and I extend my most sincere condolences to Marshall, Kathy, Amy and David.

Uncle Alan, you are one of the constants of my life, always true and steadfast. You've presided over most of the weddings which have shaped the world I know, and helped shape my family back in West Hartford, New Britain, New Hampshire and perhaps most especially in Baltimore as you helped my family deal with our own tragedy. My thoughts are with you as you start to live your life without the physical presence of your partner of so many years.

Phil McLean - February 14, 2021 at 12:30 PM

AJ

“ Mrs. McLean helped shape an entire generation of young women in New Britain. All of us who attended Mooreland will never forget her. She was a wonderful role model and coach - always kind, encouraging and patient. She championed us as athletes and inspired many of us to pursue our athletic interests in high school and beyond. Thinking of the entire McLean family during this time. Much love to each of you.

Abbe Jacobson - February 14, 2021 at 10:12 AM

ML

“ *I always liked Mrs. Mclean. Always smiling and considerate of others. RIP*

Matthew Leavenworth - February 14, 2021 at 09:59 AM