



## Mary (James) Krenn

October 9, 1927 - January 12, 2026

Mary (James) Krenn, 98, widow of Joseph R. Krenn, passed away Monday, January 12, 2026 in Alameda, CA. Born in New Britain, she lived here most of her life before moving to California in 2015 to be closer to her son, Christopher Krenn. The youngest of six, Mary had a happy childhood. She graduated from New Britain High School in 1944 and was the first in her immediate family to go to college. In 1948, she received her B.S. Degree in Biology and Chemistry from St. Joseph's College in West Hartford. Mary was a medical technologist at New Britain General Hospital for 20 years, focusing on hematology and biochemistry. She was in charge of the laboratory for the last 15 years of her career, retiring in 1968. She married Joseph, a mechanical engineer at Fafnir Bearing Company, that same year.

Mary was a charter member of St. Maurice Church in New Britain and volunteered in the blood program for the American Red Cross. She co-founded a youth soccer league in New Britain. Mary was an avid UConn Women's Basketball fan, traveling to watch them play in the Final Four many times. She considered herself a "geriatric jock" in tennis, golf, and skiing. Mary traveled to all seven continents; highlights included skiing in Austria for three months, climbing the pyramids in Egypt, and posing with a whale bone in Antarctica.

Mary taught her family to value education, hard work, thrift, and exploring the

world. Remembered as a “good, loyal friend,” Mary maintained strong friendships throughout her life, many lasting decades. She liked to laugh, enjoyed good food, and told it like it was. Her loved ones remember her as witty, generous, and outgoing.

Besides her son Christopher Krenn and his wife Lilly Krenn of Oakland, CA, she leaves two grandchildren, Hannah and Joe Krenn, as well as many nieces and nephews. Mary was predeceased by her five siblings, Clayton James Jr., who was killed in action in WWII, Richard H. James, Verna James, Alice Hurlburt and Carolyn Stewart-Elliot.

Her family is deeply grateful to all who helped to care for her in her final years, especially Sabina Sunuwar.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Thursday, January 22nd at 10:30 AM at St. Maurice Church, 100 Wightman Road, New Britain. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery, New Britain. Calling hours are 5-7 PM on Wednesday, January 21st and 9-10 AM on Thursday, January 22nd at Carlson Funeral Home, 45 Franklin Square, New Britain. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the University of St. Joseph, 1678 Asylum Ave., West Hartford, CT 06117 or the New Britain Museum of American Art (NBMAA), 56 Lexington St., New Britain, CT 06052. Please share a memory or note of sympathy at [www.carlsonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary Cemetery

1141 Stanley Street  
New Britain, CT 06053

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JAN 21. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home  
45 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
(860) 225-6361  
carlsonfh@aol.com  
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Calling Hours

JAN 22. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Carlson Funeral Home  
45 Franklin Square  
New Britain, CT 06051  
(860) 225-6361  
carlsonfh@aol.com  
<https://www.carlsonfuneralhome.com/>

## Mass of Christian Burial

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JAN **22**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Maurice Church  
100 Wightman Rd.  
New Britain, CT

## Burial

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JAN **22** (ET)

St. Mary Cemetery  
1141 Stanley Street  
New Britain, CT 06053

# Tribute Wall

SS

“ *Mary was a golf buddy at SMCC, She was part of our Vermont trip group as well as our Christmas luncheon party. Mary was thoughtful, caring and witty. I missed her when she moved to Ca, My deepest condolences to her family. Sue Stevens*

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**Sue Stevens** - January 19 at 11:21 AM

RK

“ *Our deepest condolences, Chris. I have many fond memories of your mom from Mooreland Hill School and then SMCC. Keeping you and your family in our prayers. Rebecca Karabin-Ahern*

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**Rebecca Karabin** - January 19 at 09:55 AM

JD

“ Chris, Lilly & family, our deepest condolences to all of you.

We adored Mary, a great lady who deserved to live for 98 years.



Most Sundays after 9:00 mass at St. Maurice, we met with Mary and the Ceplenskis, for coffee and donuts, with our children. We had so much fun together. Mary really enjoyed our children, and was so good to them - we felt like family.

At Shuttle Meadow we had wonderful times golfing, eating and celebrating with Mary. We remember her birthday party, when you, Chris, rented the fancy red BMW for her! - Such fun.

While our hearts are heavy, we thank Mary for filling our lives with so many special moments.

☐🙏 Julie & Howard Dyson

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**Julie Dyson** - January 18 at 06:51 PM

RJ

“ Aunt Mary was my Godmother who was as supportive of education as she was giving. Mary paid for my nursing education at New Britain General Hospital, the same hospital at which she worked. Thank you, Aunt Mary, for a career that might not have happened if you hadn't been so generous and thoughtful about my future. Rest in peace with Joe and your family, Ruthie

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**Ruth James** - January 16 at 10:42 PM

JG

The world is sad because Mary Krenn left it. Wonderful funny and kind. So happy to have known her. 💕💕

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**Judy Garro** - January 19 at 08:53 AM

CB

*My deepest sympathy to the Krenn family, I have many fond memories of Mary golfing at SMCC and sharing a good laugh. I always admired her many accomplishments and her love for family. May she rest in peace.*

*Sincerely,  
Christine Bruemmer*

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**Christine Bruemmer** - January 19 at 11:14 AM

CC

*To all the family.....Mary was so special to me and so many others. I have such wonderful memories thru the years at Shuttle Meadow.  
Carol Ceplenski*

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**Carol Ceplenski** - January 19 at 04:44 PM

BB

*A few quick thoughts that have stuck with me. 1) Mrs. Krenn brought me to Fenway for my very first Red Sox game. I clearly remember the seeing of walking up the ramp and seeing the Green Monster. Amazing experience! Also my second Red Sox game. 2) Awesome weeks in West Haven at the beach. Super memories! 3) In college at Hobart receiving random "Halloween" cards with \$20 in it! Just so thoughtful...*

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**Bradley J Bray** - January 20 at 09:55 AM