

# MARY CATHERINE (CAIN) RUFFENNACH



Age 83, of Clearwater, FL, formerly Whitehall passed away peacefully on May 26, 2024. Mary was born in Pittsburgh to the late Albert and Margaret Cain on June 19, 1940, and was the oldest of the five Cain children. She is survived by the love of her life, Cyril James "Jim" Ruffennach, to whom she was married for almost 61 years. No matter what was going on in their lives, not a single night passed without a

goodnight kiss.

She was a devoted mother to Cyril Gregory "Greg" (Becky) Ruffennach of Powderhorn, CO, Mary Kathryn "Katie" (Kevin) Burns of Fort Wayne, IN, Amy (Ben) Lansford of Missouri City, TX, and Jamie (Kevin) Gang of Venetia, PA. As a mother, Mary was a true testament of unconditional love.

Mary's most beloved role, which brought her the biggest joy in life, was that of Grandma. She was adored and loved by her 15 grandchildren, Rachel, Stephen and Michael Ruffennach, Colin, Molly, Erynn and Clara Burns, Clayton, Andrew and Caroline Lansford and Avery, Evelyn, Olivia, Ivy and Everett Gang. When asked for just one word to describe her, they shared: virtuous, joyful, nurturing, loyal, extraordinary, kind, safe, caring, benevolent, selfless, determined, encouraging, dependable, giving, and generous.

Her life's work has always been centered around children and giving back. She began her career as a Special Education teacher. Later, she earned multiple advanced degrees, became an adolescent psychologist, and started her own practice. After retiring in Florida, she continued to educate and nurture children by teaching countless toddlers how to swim in their condo's pool. She would present the child with a medal once he/she tossed the Mary-loathed water wings!

She loved the water; any pool, Lake Erie, and the Gulf. She believed that salt water cured all ails. For such a water-lover, it is fitting to say she cast a very wide net! Her compassion was so far-reaching; she was beloved by many, her impact is legendary, and she will be missed for the positive impact she has made. Whether her patients, her caregivers, a toddler at the pool, or a stranger in a restaurant, she made a difference, made things better, made you smile, and made you feel loved.

She was also our anchor! Mary welcomed everyone into her home by hosting family dinners, bridal and baby showers, parties, brunches, and even a wedding reception. She was who you turned to with joy or despair and the person you could count on for an encouraging word, a life lesson, or an "I will pray for you."

Mary was preceded in death by her brother Albert "Bud" (Susan) Cain. She is survived by her sisters, Patty (the late William) Reinersmann, Margaret (Charlie) Herold, and Michelle (Steve) Bishoff; and sister-in-law, Janet (Bill) Narr. She is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and lifelong friends.

As her family, we hope to honor her memory by living lives that demonstrate the qualities that she instilled in all of us. Her adventurous spirit, can-do attitude, love of life, and commitment to her faith are beyond compare. Simply put, she has left a void that we cannot fill.

Family and friends will be received at THE JOHN F. SLATER FUNERAL HOME INC., 412-881-4100, 4201 Brownsville Road, Brentwood 15227 on Thursday, June 6, 2024, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Rosary will be said at 3:30 p.m. and remembrances by the family begin at 7:30 p.m. Funeral Prayer on Friday, June 7, 2024 at 9:15 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial in Triumph of the Holy Cross Parish, St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church at 10:00 a.m. The family asks that you wear happy colors to celebrate the joy that Mary brought to others. Memorial donations may be made to The Red Door which provides food, blankets, and personal hygiene products to those in need. Mary of Mercy Church, 202 Stanwix Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222. Divinemeracyphg.org. Please send condolences to [www.johnfslater.com](http://www.johnfslater.com)

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