

JANICE CRAY MCGINN BYARS



Janice Cray McGinn Byars, age 86, passed away peacefully on January 11, 2025, surrounded by her loved ones. Born in McKeesport, Janice lived a full and vibrant life, leaving a lasting impact on everyone she met. She was the eldest of five siblings in the Cray family, which includes Nancy, Tommy, Kathleen, and John. Janice married her high school sweetheart, Captain Francis Patrick "Pat" McGinn.

Together, they navigated Pat's career in the U.S. Air Force, NASA, and Eastern Airlines, raising three children: Patrick, who is married to April and has two sons, Patrick married to Patty and Jonny; Kathy, who is married to Brad Gregg and has two children, Stuart and Meghan married to Chase Penland with a son, Graham; and Mike, who is married to Brandi with three children, Brittan, Michael, and Sarah Blaine. After Pat's passing in 1980, Janice dedicated her life to raising her children and supporting them through college. She was blessed to find love once more when she married Charles "Chuck" Byars. She wholeheartedly embraced her new role as "Mimi" to Chuck's children, Kelly, Jeff, and Keith; as well as his grandchildren: Tyler, Taylor, and Tate Stanford; Lindsey, Sarah, and Matt Byars. Her nurturing spirit created a joyful and loving extended family, where she cherished every moment spent with each one. Her life was filled with joy and activity. She had a passion for entertaining, cooking, sewing, and playing cards, especially with her grandchildren. Janice was also an avid tennis player and enjoyed sharing laughter and the occasional glass of wine with friends and loved ones. Her lively spirit and welcoming home were the heart of many gatherings, making her presence a constant source of joy and comfort. Janice was a devout member of the Catholic Church, where she played the organ and served as musical director for over 30 plus years. Her faith was unwavering, and she served as a dedicated and faithful servant of the Lord. Her commitment to her church and her community was evident in everything she did, embodying the principles of her faith in all aspects of her life. Janice's love, kindness, and vibrant spirit will be deeply missed by all who knew her. She leaves behind a legacy of love, faith, and devotion. In lieu of flowers, donations in Janice's honor can be made to Saint Peter the Rock Catholic Church in Thomaston, GA www.stpetertherock.com/donate.

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