



Mary Ann Salem

September 14, 1947 - August 11, 2025

Mary A. Salem, born September 14, 1947 and went to glory August 11, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents, Namey and Mary Salem, from Johnstown, PA. She graduated from Johnstown High School in 1965. Then, she went to the University of Pittsburgh, where she obtained a masters degree in Education. Then, she went to CSUN, where she obtained another Masters Degree in Special Education. She relocated in 1976 to Riverside, Ca and started to work at California School for the Deaf. She left in 1988 to work at Somerset Special Schools, as a director of Student Services. In 2010, she went to work for Starting Gate. Then in 2012, she started working for National University and the University of Redlands. In 1990, she met Alphonso McGowan, who later became her husband. She will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved her, especially her husband, Alphonso. Rest in Peace Sweet Soul who is forever in the arms of Jesus.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

SEP **10**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (Pst)

Preston and Simons Mortuary
3358 Mission Inn Ave
Riverside, CA 92501
(951) 683-7410
<https://www.preston-simonsmortuary.com/>

Tribute Wall

DL

“ Growing up, I was Deaf and Mary Ann was hearing, with Deaf parents like mine. She was one of the first CODAs (Children of Deaf Adults) I knew. For me, as a Deaf child with very little exposure to the hearing world, Mary Ann opened a window. She and her CODA friends helped bridge that gap and brought understanding, kindness, and connection into our lives.



Later, when I moved to California where she worked at a Deaf school, Mary Ann immediately offered my wife a teaching job while I pursued my Master's degree. That simple act showed just how deeply she cared and how willing she was to support others. Mary Ann truly made a difference, and those memories remain such a wonderful part of my childhood and my life.

Rest well, dear Mary Ann. Fly free.

Dr. Eddy Laird - September 13, 2025 at 01:04 PM

DE

“ I graduated from college in 1973, eager to begin a career as a teacher of the deaf. I was fortunate to land a job working in the program for deaf and hard of hearing students that Mary Ann directed at the Ebensburg (PA) State School and Hospital. She was invaluable in my early professional growth, and I have never forgotten her mentorship. I was thrilled, several years ago, to reconnect with her on Facebook. Rest easy, Mary Ann.

David Estep - September 11, 2025 at 12:20 PM

PO

“ Polly planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ann Salem.

Polly - September 06, 2025 at 01:53 PM

PO

“ Polly purchased the Blue Caribbean Bouquet for the family of Mary Ann Salem.



Polly - September 06, 2025 at 01:53 PM

PS

“ Polly Simmons purchased the Butterfly Whispers - Not Forgotten for the family of Mary Ann Salem.



Polly Simmons - September 06, 2025 at 01:53 PM

PS

“ Polly Simmons sent a virtual gift in memory of Mary Ann Salem



Polly Simmons - September 05, 2025 at 09:49 AM

JN

“*Mary Ann, from cradle to grave, we always had a special bond in so many ways, from our earliest days as children in the Cambria City Historic District in Johnstown, PA. First, as neighbors, as friends, attending the same elementary and high school, dancing at The Teen Canteen, The Supremes, and our roots in the Farrah and Salem families. As well as making many memories with Mike Rokita, your brother from another mother. We stayed connected over the years through letters, greeting cards, telephone calls, texts, and Facebook. You always remembered me every holiday, including Jacqueline Lawson ecards. But more important than our connection was your extreme kindness to everyone you encountered. You had no hidden agenda in your interactions with people you came in contact with. I will forever remember our last call when you confided in me your health diagnosis and how you chose FAITH over FEAR till the day you fell asleep in the Lord. Memory Eternal!*”

Jim Najjar - August 31, 2025 at 11:25 AM

AH

“*I worked with Mary when she was at Somerset and again at National University. She was always so cheerful, and she had a delightful sense of humor. My condolences to the family. She will be missed.*”

Ann Huntington - August 21, 2025 at 08:11 AM