



## Mary Dalby

May 24, 1945 - February 11, 2022

Mary Barbara (Dudderar) Dalby

Mary Barbara Dalby passed away peacefully in her daughter's arms at her home in Ottawa Hills, Ohio on Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, at the age of 76, after many years with progressive lung disease. She was surrounded by love, music, flowers and her meticulous houseplants, of which she had many.

Born on May 24, 1945 in Pittsburgh, Pa., she was the only daughter and eldest child of Frederick and Barbara Dudderar. A 1963 graduate of Portage (Ind.) High School, she received her undergraduate degree in English ('67) and master's degree in library science ('69) from Indiana University in Bloomington, where she graduated with honors.

In August 1969, she married George Dalby and they lived in the Chicago suburb of Glenview, Ill., where she worked as a librarian at Glenbrook South High School. In 1976, her beloved daughter Megan was born with her same sparkling blue eyes, wit and sense of curiosity.

Job prospects in 1980 brought the family to Toledo and they settled in Ottawa Hills. Mary was involved in many civic and social groups, including the Junior League and American Association of University Women. She supported Toledo Area Metroparks and was the president of the International Park board

when in 1987, it acquired the 617-foot iron ore freighter, the Willis B. Boyer, now the Col. James M. Schoonmaker Museum Ship, at the National Great Lakes Museum.

In 1992, she purchased the M/V Sandpiper, a 65-foot river boat modeled after old Erie Canal crafts. For 25 seasons, she captained cruises on the Maumee River and Lake Erie, entertaining countless passengers with her legendary sense of humor, commanding voice, and vast knowledge of Toledo and the Great Lakes. She was known by many as "The Boat Lady."

As a prominent small business owner, she was deeply invested in the city, striving to make it better. Mary was a member of the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce as well as the Maumee and Port Clinton area chambers. She frequently attended local government and downtown development meetings and events.

Deeply loyal and blessed with a bright and easy smile, Mary made many friends and kept them for life. She treasured one-on-one conversations, tradition, sharing stories and facts about any item of interest. If it was important to a friend, it became important to her. Through friendships she acquired varied interests including a passion for Notre Dame football, Jimmy Buffet, and Highland bagpipes.

Mary enjoyed her friends, playing bridge, and laughing over lunch. She loved ice cream, chocolate, Diet Coke and fresh-cut flowers from her garden-often gifting and receiving blooms from friends and neighbors. She enjoyed traveling and visiting friends and family, especially her daughter and grandsons. As her health declined, she remained deeply embedded in the community and a distinctive social media presence, frequently featuring amateur weather reports and conditions on her patio table-seriously!

She is survived by her daughter Megan (Kristi) Dalby-Jones of Park Ridge, Ill., grandsons Parker and Ian, brother Dixon (Julie) Dudderar of Harbor Springs, Mich., brother Frederick (Jennifer) Dudderar of Duluth, Minn., and many nieces and nephews in Michigan, Minnesota, California, New Mexico, Colorado, Texas, Oregon, Ohio, Massachusetts and elsewhere. Her family bids her bon voyage and smooth sailing in the great beyond.

In Mary's memory, the family encourages each person touched by her spirit to carry out acts of service and civic engagement. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Harvesting 4 Haiti, the Great Lakes Historical Society, or the Cherry Street Mission in Toledo.

Visitation will be held at Coyle Funeral Home in Toledo on Saturday, Feb. 19 from 1-6 p.m. A private family service is planned for the spring. Please leave a condolence message for the family at [CoyleFuneralHome.com](http://CoyleFuneralHome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **19**. 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Coyle Funeral Home  
1770 S. Reynolds Road  
Toledo, OH 43614

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ I posted before. I'll miss Mary. She was a great roommate and friend! Carol Brattain Smith, 164 Weir Rd, Yarmouth Port Ma 02675



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**Carol Brattain Smith** - March 15, 2022 at 02:48 PM

VH

“ Mary's passing was a real shock! I have never met a more kinder person in my life. She truly cared and we were blessed that her family came to Toledo in 1980! Many beautiful memories. Sincerely, VJ Huffman, Point Place Business Association

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**VJ Huffman** - February 19, 2022 at 11:29 AM

CV

“ 2 files added to the album VIDEO TRIBUTE



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**COYLE FUNERAL HOME VIDEOS** - February 19, 2022 at 09:49 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



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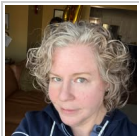
**Dixon Dudderar** - February 18, 2022 at 08:52 PM



Missing my Big Sister ... ❤️❤️❤️

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**Dixon Dudderar** - March 07, 2024 at 01:36 PM



“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



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**Kristi Dalby-Jones** - February 14, 2022 at 05:32 PM

TC

“ To the Loving Family of Mary Dalby:

*Please accept my heartfelt condolences on Mary's passing. She was a wonderful lady, big supporter of Downtown Toledo and great friend to all of us throughout Northwest Ohio. She will be greatly missed!*

*May God be with you all during this time of great sorrow.*

*Tom Crothers*

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**Tom Crothers** - February 14, 2022 at 03:52 PM

GJ

“ *May your heart find comfort knowing that your love one is at home with the Lord*

*Love Gwendolyn E.March Jones and Family*

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**Gwendolyn E.March Jones** - February 13, 2022 at 09:40 PM

KF

“ *Mary and I became friends because I worked at Fifth Third Bank and she would call me when she notice a light out in our logo! She checked it out regularly as she motored on the Maumee. After she retired, she asked what I was doing in retirement--she needed something to do! I told her about sorting books for the Friends of the Library on Friday mornings. So, she joined the group. But Mary had a difficult time disposing of books no matter their condition. She found other things to do--removing sticky notes from books, breaking down boxes, etc. And, she entertained us with her lively comments. I miss her. She was a great lady.*

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**Karen Fraker** - February 13, 2022 at 04:15 PM

LO

“ Mary was a wonderful neighbor and friend. Quick with a smile and quicker with a witty remark.

*Those we hold most dear never truly leave us. They live on in the kindness they showed, the comfort they shared, and the love they brought to our lives.*

*Lou and Jeff Nelson*

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**Lou** - February 13, 2022 at 04:01 PM

DK

“ My brother Jeff, who was a classmate of Mary’s, just informed me of her passing. So sorry to hear and for your loss. I always enjoyed as a kid in OD seeing her on the beach. She would get me caught up on what Fred and Dixon were up to. Between Mary and Gigi Moore, I knew everything going on in OD. Peace, Sincerely, Doug Kayes OD/IU alum.

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**Douglas Kayes** - February 13, 2022 at 11:36 AM

CK

“ Captain's last call to his first mate :Mary Dalby,  
May the Sun be shining with Blue skies above and the Seas be calm, on your last voyage.

*Captain :  
Rick Knapp  
MVSandpiper  
2002-2019"*

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**Captain Richard Knapp** - February 13, 2022 at 11:08 AM

DF

“ If you are going to Donate to the Great Lakes Historical Society please consider calling in the donation and noting the memorial or mailing a check and noting the memorial. The website does not seem to be conducive to earmarking donations for memory of someone. I have a call in to them to see if possibly we can pool all of our contributions to create a permanent and lasting memorial for Mary.

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**Daniel Finkel** - February 12, 2022 at 03:16 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



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**Dixon Dudderar** - February 12, 2022 at 01:31 PM

SR

“ Sorry to hear about this lovely lady passing, always enjoyed her Sandpiper boat commentary. Condolences to her family

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**Sue Robinson** - February 12, 2022 at 01:06 PM