



Harriett Mary Issertell

September 20, 1935 - March 12, 2024

Harriett Mary Issertell died peacefully on March 12 in Altamonte Springs at the age of 88.

Harriett was born in Mt. Vernon, NY on September 20, 1935. She is survived by her niece Karen Speidell, her husband James of Poughquag NY, their three children and six grandchildren. She is also survived by Janet Grosso of Mt. Vernon, NY, and Richard Genesse of Buffalo, NY, and a great niece and nephew. She was predeceased by her husband Joseph T. Issertell, her parents Mary and James Genesse, and her brothers James and Edwin Genesse.

During her lifetime, Harriett became an educator and touched the lives of thousands of students during her long tenure in the classroom. She taught at St. Mary Magdalen for many years and then continued teaching in the Orange County public school system in 1985. Throughout her long career Harriett held many positions including a kindergarten and second grade teacher, a reading specialist, and instructional coach.

During much of this time Harriett also served as a consultant in the religious education division of Silver Burdett publishers. Harriett was selected as Bonneville Teacher of the Year in 1995 and won a Disney “Teacherrific” award for innovative teaching practices in 1996. She retired in 2022.

Harriett graduated from the Audire program in 1999 as a spiritual director and

then served as an assistant in Year 1 of the program from 2005-2020. She will be remembered for her exemplary organizational skills, her faithfulness to serving the Audire program, and her beautiful welcoming smile.

Harriett's impact will be felt for many years, and she will be missed by all those she touched with her wisdom and wit.

Services for Harriett will be held at DeGusipe Funeral Home at 9001 North Orlando Ave., Maitland, Florida, on Friday, April 5 from 5-7 PM. A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Saturday, April 6 at 10AM at St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church, Altamonte Springs, Florida. Interment will follow immediately after mass at Glen Haven Memorial Park.

Cemetery Details

Glen Haven Memorial Park

2300 Temple drive
Winter Park, FL 32789

Previous Events

Burial to follow Mass

APR 6 (ET)

Glen Haven Memorial Park
2300 Temple drive
Winter Park, FL 32789

Tribute Wall

SR

“ Thank you Mrs. Issertell for being a wonderful first grade teacher for all the children in the Osborn family. You were a favorite of Kent in 1972-73 and myself in 1974-75. We also lived in Casselberry and you were welcoming and happy to see us outside of school. Your memory lives on in all of your students.

Shannon Osborn Reynolds - April 05, 2024 at 08:43 AM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Harriett Mary Issertell.



April 02, 2024 at 01:11 PM

TA

“ For many years, Harriett was the welcoming face and voice of Audire as she served as a team assistant. She occupied our “front desk” wherever our program was hosted keeping everything and everyone organized behind the scenes. My favorite memory however was when she said with delight that she could see her elementary students “eye to eye” because she was their same height. May you be warmly welcomed home dear Harriet by all who have gone before you!

Tim Arsenault- co-founder of Audire

Tim Arsenault - March 23, 2024 at 01:33 PM

MD

Harriett, my husband, Rick, and I became fast friends over 30 years ago when we met at St mary Magdalen Catholic Church. Harriett and I both sang in the choir for years. This tiny woman was a spiritual giant. It was a joy to discuss our faith and pray together as she graced our table over an Italian meal, which she did often. Harriett loved to teach! Had she not suffered the many broken bones of late, she might have still been in the classroom into her nineties. She once told us she would visit the empty classrooms at the start of each school year to pray for the children she had yet to meet who would soon sit at those desks...that's the kind of person one is honored to call a friend! I can picture her now enjoying a cup of strong, black coffee on a cloud with her beloved Joe. Jesus will, no doubt, reward a life of such faithful service in ways we can't even imagine...Rest in peace, dear friend.

Maria Darnell

maria darnell - March 26, 2024 at 04:03 AM

TC

*Good morning Mrs Issertell
The 1st grade class 1968 at SMM*

*She wonderful teacher who saw the best in each student
Great teacher
Such an infectious positive outlook*

*Thank you and
We honor you*

tom callan - April 02, 2024 at 01:25 PM

KC

Harriett, we first met at the funeral of my brother back in the year 2000. Little did I know then, that in January of 2002 I would join the choir. We were the two shortest ones. You were there again in February of 2002 when my mother died and the choir sang. I will of course be there on April 6th with the choir, to sing this time all for you as you join the heavenly choir. I have missed you these past few years, your smile and laughter. You've missed a few different directors, but none like Paul. Rest now sweet Hariett, your friend Kathy Crowell.

Kathy Crowell - April 03, 2024 at 01:30 PM

SD

Our daughter, Daria was in Mrs. Issertell's first grade class of 75-76. What a blessing Harriett was to all the children and especially to Daria. We had just moved to Florida, and Daria had a newborn sister and toddler brother. A lot for a 6 year old to process.

Harriett was always there for Daria and all the children. She rallied them to participate at school, including nudging parents to make sure that they came to all Home and School meetings. Class Issertell was almost always the winner of attendance award!

Harriett you always kept your welcoming smile, even when you had great loss yourself.

Thank you for a wonderful life of service

Shelley and Terry Dittmer

Shelley Dittmer - April 05, 2024 at 12:49 PM