



Mary Kathryn "Katsy" Stewart

March 21, 1937 - May 20, 2025

Mary Kathryn "Katsy" Stewart, 88, of Greenville, SC, passed away peacefully on May 20, 2025, at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, MJ and Bill Ghrist.

Born on March 21, 1937, Katsy was the daughter of Jane Woodyard and Lee Swinford. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education from Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL. It was there that her lifelong passion for sports and fitness began—a passion that would define much of her joyful and active life.

After marrying James "Jim" Stewart, Katsy dedicated herself to supporting his 20-year career as a U.S. Air Force navigator, all while raising their three daughters. During their years as a military family, she found joy and camaraderie in bowling, tennis, and making each new place feel like home.

Professionally, Katsy brought her vibrant energy and warmth to roles as a Circulation Clerk at the Richland County Public Library and later as an Administrative Assistant at Midlands Technical College. She came out of retirement to work as a kindergarten aide at Oak Grove Elementary School, forming sweet friendships with the children she helped.

Katsy's love for physical activity never waned. A fierce competitor and lifelong

athlete, she played field hockey and badminton in college and later became a dedicated USTA League tennis player, competing in women's and mixed doubles for over 20 years. Her teams frequently advanced to the State level—a source of great pride and fun for her. She also loved Zumba, water aerobics, and long walks, often inspiring fellow gym-goers with her drive and positivity.

Above all, Katsy treasured her role as a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was deeply loved by her three daughters, her three granddaughters, and her nine great-grandchildren, cheering them on at countless sports games and dance recitals. She was the life of every gathering, lighting up family dinners, lunches with friends, and Gamecock Women's Basketball games with her humor and infectious spirit.

Katsy never met a stranger. She had a gift for making people feel welcomed, heard, and valued. Her joy in life and love for others were unmistakable and enduring.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Jim Stewart. She is survived by her daughters, MJ (Bill) Ghrist, Kathy Stewart (Randy Maxey), and Barbara (Joseph) Zinkovich; grandchildren Lauren Floyd, Jami Vargas, and Kelsey Craft; and nine great-grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held on May 30, 2025, from 12 to 4 p.m. at the home of MJ and Bill Ghrist. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Greenville Humane Society. The family extends heartfelt thanks to Dr. Brittany Peacock, Freedom Home Care, SC and VIA for their outstanding and compassionate care.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAY 30. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM.

Home of MJ & Bill Ghrist

Tribute Wall

DH

“ Ms. Katsy brought a smile into our office everytime she came in. We had great conversations and always a good laugh with her. She will be missed in our practice<3-Blue Ridge Dentistry of Simpsonville

Diane Henderson - July 16, 2025 at 12:27 PM



“ Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Kathryn "Katsy" Stewart.



May 27, 2025 at 01:21 PM

MI

“ Ms. Katsy was a class act. I can still hear her laugh and feel the warmth of her welcome.

Mindy - May 27, 2025 at 04:48 AM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Kathryn "Katsy" Stewart.



May 25, 2025 at 06:35 PM

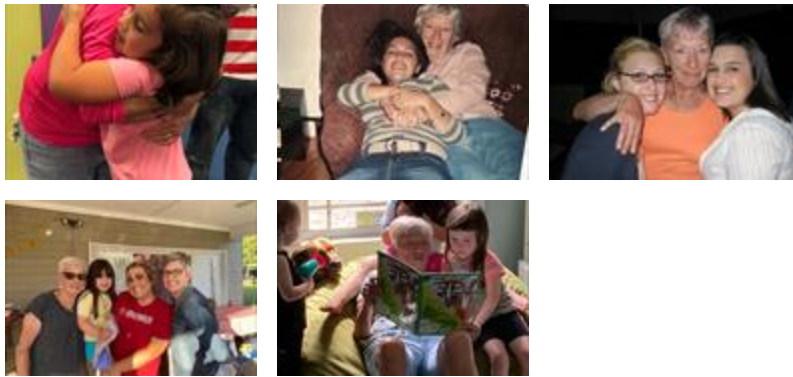
EM

“ Hi MJ, I am so sorry to here about your mom. Our prayers are with you and the Family. May the good memories bring you peace and strength. God Bless you Love Ya Evelyn Miller

Evelyn Miller - May 24, 2025 at 05:24 PM

JV

“ Best Grandma and GG ! Will Cherish our love for Gamecock sports and memories 💔



Jami Vargas - May 24, 2025 at 03:33 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mary Kathryn "Katsy" Stewart.



May 24, 2025 at 01:01 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Kathryn "Katsy" Stewart.

May 24, 2025 at 01:01 PM