



## Martha Ann Dillard

July 14, 1942 - May 14, 2022

Martha Ann Dillard, 79, of Cape Girardeau, went home to heaven Saturday May 14, 2022 after a brief battle with meningitis.

Marty was born on July 14, 1942 in Grosse Pointe, Michigan to the late Andrew Jackson Eldred and Roliene May Eldred.

She married R. Howard Dillard on November 30, 1963 in Columbia, Missouri.

Marty was a graduate of Stephen's College and the University of Missouri-Columbia where she earned a Bachelor's degree in elementary education. Marty taught school briefly before dedicating many years to raising her and Howard's children and volunteering in youth organizations including Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and PTA.

Marty had a keen eye and great appreciation for art and design. She worked at Houche House Gallery for a number of years and enjoyed helping her friends pick out the perfect piece for their home. She was a long-term member of the Board of the Cape Girardeau Public Library, Friends of the Library and PEO International. In addition to her life long passion for reading, Marty loved travel, beaches, bridge club and family.

Marty was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Mary Eldred Ponder; and

parents in law, Albert and Lola Dillard.

She is survived by her devoted husband, Howard; daughter, Cynthia Dillard Parres; son, Andrew (Teresa) Dillard; grandchildren, Brittany Dillard (Steve) Esswein, Andrew Howard Dillard II and Kenneth Paul Parres II; and many cherished friends who were like family to her.

Visitation will be 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Saturday at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel in Cape Girardeau.

A celebration of life service will follow at 2 pm at the funeral home.

Private burial will be at Lakeview Cemetery in Ludington, Michigan.

Memorial contributions may be given to the Cape Girardeau Public Library or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Ford & Sons Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at [www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com](http://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAY **21**. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Memorial Service

MAY **21**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Chapel  
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

DC

“ I just found out that Martha passed away. Sorry to hear that. I have many fond memories of her from a very long time ago. Since leaving Cape Girardeau in 1987 I unfortunately lost touch with a lot of people. My path did cross with Martha briefly in 1996 when I suffered a very personal loss.  
Dianne Carlile

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**Dianne M Carlile** - July 18, 2023 at 09:14 AM

SO

“ Howard and family,  
  
I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your wife. Please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family during this very difficult time.



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**Susie Pickett O'Connell** - May 24, 2022 at 09:36 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Martha Ann Dillard.



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May 21, 2022 at 10:37 AM

MH

“ Dear Howard, Cindy and Andy,  
There are no words that can adequately express the impact Marty has made on my life. Her kindness and thoughtfulness were always the guiding principles of her life and she freely showered others with her love. It was my very good fortune to have been a recipient of her friendship. She was so proud of her children and grandchildren and delighted in telling me stories of their youth and adulthood. Some of her fondest stories revolved around the times Cindy’s and Andy’s high school friends would gather at your house on Sunset. The other times she looked forward to were the visits from family and friends during the summer in Michigan. She LOVED planning for and packing for those vacations. She especially loved making S’mores among the Dunes. Aside from the love she had for you, her greatest gift was keeping everyone connected. Marty cared about her friends and our families and made it her mission to hold us close in some of our darkest moments. I will always cherish her calls, cards, visits and gifts. More importantly, I will aspire to follow her example and be a better wife, daughter and friend. Marty will forever be in my heart. May the love of family and friends comfort you and wonderful memories of our dearest Marty sustain you. Love, Marsha Haskell

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**Marsha Haskell** - May 21, 2022 at 09:54 AM

AM

“ Marty was such a great mom! I remember how she hosted a beautiful dinner for Cindy and her friends on prom night at their home on Sunset. I am so sorry for your loss. I am praying for Cindy & her family. Love, Ann Stamp Muench

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**Ann Stamp Muench** - May 20, 2022 at 11:35 PM

JS

“ I send my condolences to Howard and the family And I have so many good memories of working with you on the downtown museum! My thoughts and prayers are with you! Jane Cooper Stacy

jane Cooper Stacy - May 19, 2022 at 03:05 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Martha Ann Dillard.



May 19, 2022 at 12:40 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Martha Ann Dillard.



May 19, 2022 at 12:10 AM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Martha Ann Dillard.



May 18, 2022 at 06:21 PM