



## Mary C. Kasten

June 6, 1928 - October 12, 2024

Mary C. Kasten, 96, of Cape Girardeau, Missouri died Saturday, October 12, 2024 at her residence.

She was born June 6, 1928 in Matthews, MO to Clarence A. and Ruth (Hill) Critchlow.

She and Melvin Charles Kasten were married June 19, 1949 in Matthews, MO.

Mary Kasten was an amazing woman. She was a Cape Public School Board member for 21 years, President of the Missouri School Board Association, served on the SEMO Board of Regents, and Missouri State Representative for 19 years. Her sphere of influence was enormous. The list of accomplishments is too long for this writing. Yet, fame was never goal. A servant's heart is what she manifested throughout her career. She was known for Always having a positive, caring and can-do attitude. Even as she was in her last hours, it was reported that she asked one of her caretakers, "how her day was." Always thinking of others to the very end. One of her often used statements when we appeared to be unable to accomplish something was "Where there is a will, there is a way."

We are extraordinarily proud of our mom and what she was done. But most of

all, because she was a loving, caring mother who taught us a great work ethic. She encouraged us to succeed and be the best we could be.

We will miss her tremendously, as will many others whose lives she has touched.

She was a very devoted Christian. A founding member of St. Andrew Lutheran Church. There was never any doubt as to her final accomplishment.

She would want everyone to Rejoice and be Happy that she was won her race.

Survivors include two sons, Mark C. (Lois) Kasten of Chaffee, MO, Mike C. (Percilla) Kasten of Cape Girardeau, MO; daughter, Margaret "Meg" Sexton of Moberly, MO; six grandchildren, Heather (Jered) Angelle of Richmond, TX, Ben (Lindsey) Kasten of Baton Rouge, LA, Ryan (Audrey) Frenz of Jackson, MO, Caroline Kasten of Nashville, TN, Drew Anna Kasten of Columbia, MO, Emma Sexton of Cape Girardeau, MO; five great-grandchildren, Evelyn Kasten, Lillian Kasten, Caden Angelle, Julianne Angelle, Piper Frenz.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother, Bill Wm. and Wanda Critchlow; sister, Beatrice Depro.

Visitation will be 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Saturday, October 19, 2024 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau.

Funeral Service will be at 12:00 pm Saturday, October 19, 2024 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Cape Girardeau with the Rev. John Dehne officiating. A lunch will follow the service, with a social time immediately after.

A private burial will be at Cape County Memorial Park in Cape Girardeau at a

later date.

Memorial contributions, in lieu of flowers, may be given to Samaritan's Purse or St. Andrew Lutheran Church.

A special thanks of appreciation goes to the ladies who cared for mom 24 hours a day, Helen Baker, Chelsey Bird, Georgia Reily, Debbie Graham, Bonnie Boyd, Chelsea Jenkins, Mashanda Reed, Cosandra Reed, Vercorea Cooper.

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

Ford & Sons Funeral Home - Mt. Auburn is in charge of arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Cape County Memorial Park

2315 Highway 61 N  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **19**. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
804 N. Cape Rock Dr.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

## Funeral Service

OCT **19**. 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Andrew Lutheran Church  
804 N. Cape Rock Dr.  
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ Mike Wilkening purchased the *Beautiful in Blue* for the family of Mary C. Kasten.



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**Mike Wilkening** - November 02, 2024 at 01:05 AM

MW

“ Mike Wilkening planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary C. Kasten.

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**Mike Wilkening** - November 02, 2024 at 01:05 AM

RR

“ I read through all of the post on this site and they remind and confirm for me what a grand person Representative Kasten was. I received marching orders from her on many occasions. Her projects always demonstrated respect for her constituents, and bear generational results. Rest in peace, dear lady.

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**Randall Rhodes** - October 26, 2024 at 01:16 PM

JJ

“ We send our sympathy and prayers to Dr. Kasten, Meg, and to all the family. Your mother was a very special and much loved woman and she raised a wonderful family. God bless you all during this time.

*Ray & Jaynee Juneau*

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**Jayne Juneau** - October 19, 2024 at 08:34 PM

RF

“ I have a vivid memory of my time 40 years ago with Mary Kasten. I had "semi-volunteered" to do some polling phone work during the 1980's concerning the upcoming Nuclear power plant and legislation in Jefferson City. Her and I rode together to Rolla to work the phones. She gave me a lesson in civic education that has stuck with me to this day. The depth of knowledge required, the complexities of laws affecting an entire area, not just local. She really expanded my mind set when it comes to public service. May she rest in peace she was a wonderful public servant. Richard Flentge

Rich Flentge - October 18, 2024 at 11:02 AM



“ Stars in the Sky - Elements Angel was purchased for the family of Mary C. Kasten.



October 17, 2024 at 11:24 PM

JT

“ Julia Duff Thrower planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary C. Kasten.

Julia Duff Thrower - October 17, 2024 at 11:24 PM

JH

“ I came from many generations of poverty and my grandmother told me a story about Mary Kasten I will always remember. When my dad was a young boy. Someone called family services on my grandmother for not having enough food for the kids. And before family services got there to do their investigation. Mary Kasten and Ann Limbaugh showed up in a station wagon loaded with groceries. She continued to help my family throughout the years and also gave my father employment as a handyman for many years. October 12th 2024 heaven became that much more beautiful.

James Harris - October 17, 2024 at 05:50 PM

IF

“ Ira F. planted a grove of 5 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary C. Kasten.

Ira F. - October 17, 2024 at 03:17 PM

CC

“ Dr. Kasten and Family; Our sympathy at the passing of your wife, mother, grandmother and great-grand-mother. She was a grand lady and I know she will be missed by all of you. Carolyn and Jim Clayton

Carolyn Clayton - October 17, 2024 at 12:55 PM

JS

“ I am so sorry to hear of Mary's passing. She was such an incredible Christian lady who lifted up everyone who knew her. I was especially grateful for her support for Mid-America Teen Challenge when I had the privilege of serving there. We always knew that we had Mary's support in every way. May the Lord comfort and strengthen all of the family now and in the times ahead.

JACK R SMART - October 17, 2024 at 10:39 AM

EH

“ Our thoughts and prayers for the Kasten family. Mary was a treasure and much loved lady. I remember when she came to the Cash-Book Journal newspaper (Post & Cash-Book) going to ride with Marvin Proffer to Jefferson City. She was so nice and always had a kind word and a hug. Elaine and Keith Hale

Elaine Hale - October 16, 2024 at 11:28 PM

NR

“ Neva Kay, Susan and Liz Ross purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary C. Kasten.



Neva Kay, Susan and Liz Ross - October 16, 2024 at 07:17 PM

NR

“ Neva Kay, Susan and Liz Ross planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary C. Kasten.

Neva Kay, Susan and Liz Ross - October 16, 2024 at 07:17 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Mary C. Kasten.



October 16, 2024 at 02:15 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary C. Kasten.*



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October 16, 2024 at 11:09 AM



“ *Shana L. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary C. Kasten.*

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**Shana L.** - October 16, 2024 at 11:09 AM



“ *I enjoyed the times Miss Mary would visit. So full of energy and you felt at home with her. Always with the wonderful smile. She strived to accomplish many improvements for the State Missouri as well as our local region. To the Kasten family as well as the Critchlow family; Jim, Tom, Joe, Mike and Debbie so sorry for the loss of your loss. Always remember her legacy of family memories to be cherished by all of you. Linda Spencer Roberts*

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**Linda Spencer Roberts** - October 16, 2024 at 09:24 AM



“ *Mike and family,  
My thoughts and prayers are with you. Your mother was a wonderful lady. Cherish the many years and memories made with her.  
Sincerest Sympathy.*

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**Joan Edmundson Howard** - October 16, 2024 at 04:16 AM

JC

“ Mary was such fun . She was full or energy and stories. I so enjoyed my time as her campaign manager. The garage was a site to see with ALL of her papers etc . Always a big smile hug and story were my later memories. She and Mel were so kind to us as we moved to Cape and joined the Surgical Clinic family .My love to the family ❤️



Jackie Clark/Otto - October 15, 2024 at 11:37 AM

RC

“ Dr. Kasten and family I am so sorry for your loss. Mary had a long full life and she will be missed

Robyn Crocetti - October 15, 2024 at 10:24 AM

JR

“ Sincere condolences from the Ritters. What a wonderful person and many great memories, truly a treasure for the area and an honor to have been family friends.

John B Ritter - October 15, 2024 at 09:22 AM

RS

“ I remember being on a committee with her. She was so kind to help me when I told her I had never served on a committee before.

Robin Slinkard - October 15, 2024 at 01:32 AM

CP

“ Prayers to the Kasten family at this time of loss. Cyndi Pressler

Cyndi Pressler - October 14, 2024 at 04:47 PM

FF

“ Many great memories of Miss Mary. My aunt would ride down from Jefferson City with Mary when she came home to visit her mom and sisters. I would always meet her in Cape. Can't imagine the conversations they had since they were on opposite sides of the political aisle. A great lady that will be missed.

Fred & Becky Fenimore - October 14, 2024 at 04:38 PM

KG

“ Kevin and Marty Manes, Jean and Tom Weber, Fran Gatlin purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Mary C. Kasten.



Kevin and Marty Manes, Jean and Tom Weber, Fran Gatlin -  
October 14, 2024 at 03:44 PM

KG

“ Kevin and Marty Manes, Jean and Tom Weber, Fran Gatlin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary C. Kasten.

Kevin and Marty Manes, Jean and Tom Weber, Fran Gatlin - October 14, 2024 at  
03:44 PM