



Mary Martin Schaffner

October 27, 1939 - December 5, 2012

Mary Martin Schaffner -- Died December 5, 2012, in Nashville at age 73, of complications from cancer. Mary was born in Paducah, Kentucky, and was raised in Chicago. She graduated from Vanderbilt University in 1961 and received her law degree from Vanderbilt in 1977. She was preceded in death by her parents, Guy E. Martin and Mildred Stegar Martin, and by her brother, Guy Emerson Martin. She is survived by her children, Maria C. Schaffner and Ethan W. Schaffner; her grandchildren, Paul Martin Reich and Mary Sophia Reich; and her niece, Katie Martin, (Marc Scheinkin), and her grandnephew, Flynn. Mary spent her entire legal career at the Nashville firm of Howell and Fisher and earned a reputation as a tenacious litigator. Her legal work was brilliant and her grammar was flawless. Away from the office, she was a deeply loving mother who cooked from scratch, smocked clothes for her children, and instilled in them a love of knowledge that has stood them in good stead. A lifelong learner who excelled in all her endeavors, Mary was passionate about gender and racial equality, native plants, Democratic politics, gardening, her beloved antebellum home, taking the perfect wildflower photograph, and the pleasure of reading. Her grandchildren were her greatest joy in her later years. A visitation with friends and family will be held at her home, 3702 Granny White Pike on Thursday, December 13, from 3:00 to 7:00 PM. Mary loved greatly and was greatly loved in return. In lieu of flowers, her family requests that you take the time to hug and kiss your loved ones, as she often did with them.

Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Martin Schaffner*

October 14, 2022 at 08:02 PM



“ *It was my good fortune to have know Mary Martin Schaffner for many years through CABLE. She was an inspiration to me and so many others and our community is so much better as a result of her advocacy for women through being a founder of CABLE and all the other significant things she did throughout her career. Our paths didn't cross for many years and I am so happy that I saw her at an event earlier this past fall and was able to catch up.*

Janet Jernigan - January 04, 2013 at 04:32 PM



“ *Schaffner family: my deepest condolences. May you find comfort in family, friends and good memories. May you find peace in the hope of being able to see her again. John 5.28-29 Take care of each other.*

N. Ralph - December 22, 2012 at 12:56 AM



“ *So sorry to hear about Mary passing. I just heard the news yesterday and wanted to express my sympathy. Mary was a remarkable woman and a strong advocate for women. We call her CABLE's founding mother. She leaves a legacy of great work in the Nashville community. Maria, my thoughts and prayers are with you. Pat*

Patricia Pierce - December 14, 2012 at 02:23 AM

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“ *I was a law school classmate of Mary's. We were acquaintances more than friends, but I looked up to her as being someone who was so bright and capable and comfortable with who she was. It says a lot that I have such a clear recollection of her, now 35 years since we graduated. I'm very sorry to hear of her death*

Kitty Scott - December 10, 2012 at 11:19 PM