



Mary Ann Covington

June 16, 1929 - February 16, 2024

Mary Ann Covington, 94, died peacefully on February 16, 2024 in her apartment at the Orchard surrounded by her daughters and one of her loyal sitters. She was born June 16, 1929, in Yazoo City, Mississippi. Her parents were John Lewis Ponder Jr. and Bess Winstead Ponder. She was preceded in death by her husband, John Ellis Covington, her parents, brother, John Lewis Ponder III and wife Frances.

She is survived by her daughters Eleanor Ray (Mike Ray deceased) and Carolyn Loftin; her beloved sister Nancy Brand, who she lived next door to at the Orchard; her grandchildren, Ashley Gilland (Doug); Jonathan Loftin; Mary Eleanor Loftin; Michael Ray, (Haley); Kate Buchanan (John); John Ellis Ray, (Karley). Her great grandchildren, George Gilland, Mary Mac Gilland, Ruthie Gilland, Jack Gilland, Gaines Gilland, MaKensie Bright, John Michael Ray, Lilah Kate Ray, Olivia Ray, Ellis Kate Buchanan, Mary Springer Buchanan, Robert Buchanan, Layton Ray. Additionally, she is survived by beloved nieces, nephews and cousins.

Mrs. Covington attended school in West Memphis and Brinkley Arkansas. She graduated from Benton High School, Benton, Mississippi. She graduated from MSCW in 1950 with a degree in Music Education. While at MSCW Mary Ann was a member of the Jester Social Club and many music organizations. Her piano professor, Dr. Ritchie, was responsible for her being invited to study at

the Sorbonne in Paris!

Mary Ann taught music education in Hollandale, MS where she met her husband John Covington who was employed by his family's business Mississippi Cottonseed Products, Company. They made their home in Hollandale, Greenville, Jackson, Kosciusko, and Kennet, MO. In 1984 they moved to Crystal Springs, MS where Mr. Covington was associated with Copiah Bank, the bank his great grandfather, John Alexander Covington founded. John and Mary Ann both agreed that their time living in Crystal Springs were some of the happiest years of their lives.

Music played a large part in Mary Ann's life. She taught piano for years and loved her students. Watching them excel in music brought her great joy. Church music was her love! She served as the church pianist in the church's they belonged to most every place they lived. During her time serving as the church pianist at Crystal Springs United Methodist Church she recorded a CD of piano and organ duets by she and Inza Calloway as well as a CD of her playing the piano of some of her favorite Christian hymns. Her last place of service was as the pianist for the Orchard Church which she help begin the year she moved to The Orchard.

Mary Ann loved her P.E.O. sisters and served as president of Chapter F, Jackson, MS from 1994-1996. She also was very involved in MacDowell Music Club of Crystal Springs and was president from 1986-1988.

Visitation will be Saturday, March 2nd s at Crystal Springs Methodist Church from 10:00-11:00 with a celebration of life service to follow at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

The graveside service will follow at Lakewood Memorial Park Cemetery at 2:00 p.m.

We thank with sincere gratitude and appreciation the staff at Arden Hospice for the loving care she received during her last days. Her daughters are deeply grateful for the dedication and love shown by her Orchard sitters, Theresa Williams, Debbie Jones and Kristie McCoy, who were like family to her.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the Music Ministry at Crystal Springs Methodist Church.

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Memorial Park

6011 Clinton Blvd
Jackson, MS

Previous Events

Graveside Service

MAR 2. 2:00 PM (CT)

Lakewood Memorial Park
6011 Clinton Blvd
Jackson, MS

Tribute Wall



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ann Covington.*



February 29, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ *With love and sympathy. Kathy and Susan planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ann Covington.*

With love and sympathy. Kathy and Susan - February 29, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ *At the Bridal Shower for Ashley, we were blessed that Mrs. Covington played the piano. A sweet moment for all.*
Rhonda Blair Schrenk

Rhonda Blair Schrenk - February 20, 2024 at 09:51 PM