



## Mary Eugenia Probert

October 27, 1927 - December 28, 2016

Mary Eugenia Probert passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by her children on Wednesday morning, December 28, 2016, at the age of 89. She was born in Gary, Indiana, on October 27, 1927, to Sylvene and Ray Hoepfner. When Mary was in fourth grade, her family moved to Golden City, Missouri, where she attended school until her senior year when she moved to St. Louis and graduated from Soldan High School. While in St. Louis, she attended Harris Teacher's College, later finishing her education degree and pursuing her masters at Pittsburg State University.

Mary married Joseph Edward Probert in 1950. They raised three children together while operating a dairy farm. Mary was a well-loved teacher whose zeal for teaching music inspired many to appreciate and pursue music performance and education. She taught in rural Missouri schools, including Pleasant Valley, Bois D'Arc, Bloomingdale, Dewey, Star Valley, and Avilla. She spent 19 of her 30-year teaching career as the music teacher at Jasper Elementary School. She received several prestigious awards at both the local and state level. What made her the most proud was being able to help her students and choirs receive I ratings in competitions, and they often did. When she retired on May 13, 1983, the school declared it "Mary Probert Day." Upon her retirement, Mary became active in Missouri Retired Teachers Association, serving in many roles, including President of the organization. She was her region's nominee for the Missouri Retired Teacher of the Year award in 2004. Mary was often still called upon in retirement to help students prepare for

competition and to fill in at Golden City and Dadeville schools, resulting in a new generation of Mrs. Probert fans, including her own grandson and his classmates.

Also in retirement, Mary was a very active “GrandMary” to five adoring grandchildren, survived treatment for neck cancer and later breast cancer, worked at the government FSA office and Dot’s Fashions, and continued to raise cattle with her son, Randy. Mary was a long time member of First Christian Church in Golden City. She was the organist and choir director for over 30 years, putting on many wonderful cantatas. She started and directed the “Belles of Glory” bell choir. She was the chairperson of services concerning funerals and baby and bridal showers and faithfully attended Bible study and helped with VBS, the apple pie fundraiser, and in various capacities as needed. She volunteered for Meals on Wheels and was well respected in her community. Mary was very honored to receive Golden City’s Person of the Year award both in 1993 and 2014.

Mary was a loving servant and shining light to many. She will be remembered for her faith and devotion, energy and enthusiasm, spunk and wit. She was very blessed and would want all laud and glory to be to her Lord. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Joe, and her son-in-law Mark Koontz. She is survived by her son Tony Probert and wife Tina of Golden City, daughter Roberta Koontz of La Russell, son Randy Probert and wife Reina of Jasper; grandchildren: Kurt Koontz and wife Arron of Carl Junction, Courtney Sletten and husband Jake of Freistatt, Mallory Smith and husband Matthew of Berryville, AR, Blake Probert of Springfield, and Chase Probert of Springfield; five great grandsons: MJ and Bradley Sletten, Landry and Holden Koontz, and Huxley Smith; two brothers-in-law: Ed Weinstein and Orville Duncan; and two sisters-in-law: Wanda Probert and Betty Probert; and many nieces, nephews, former students, choir members, fellow musicians, and friends.

Visitation will be on Monday, January 2, 5:30-8:30 p.m., at Ulmer Funeral Home and the funeral service will be held on Tuesday, January 3, 2:00 p.m., at First Christian Church in Golden City.

Memorial gifts may be given to the First Christian Church of Golden City or to the Mary E. Probert Music Scholarship Fund in care of Ulmer Funeral home.

# Tribute Wall

CW

“ I was so sorry to hear of Mrs. Probert's passing. She was such a wonderful teacher. I moved to Jasper at the beginning of 4th grade and she was the elementary music teacher. She made being a new kid at a new school so much easier. Then, she played the piano at my wedding and was a coworker when I started my employment at the school. She could make every kid enjoy music whether you were musically inclined or not. She always put at least 110% into everything she did; whether it was practicing for competition or the annual Christmas play, or just your regular music class. I have many fond memories of her. I remember how she always wore high heels and had so much energy! I will miss you. Condolences to all of her family and friends.

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**Cathy (Cox) Williams** - January 04, 2017 at 10:22 AM

CG

“ I was very fortunate to have Mrs. Probert as a teacher, but more importantly as an inspiration. Her love of life, zeal, and passion was tremendous. My sincere prayer for comfort of the family at this time.  
*Chuck Garner*

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**Chuck Garner** - January 03, 2017 at 10:16 AM

BG

“ Our class first met Mrs. Probert in 1964, her first year at Jasper. What I will always remember about Mrs. Probert, was her enthusiasm, and wonderful caring attitude, she had for her students, and her profession. Her teaching capabilities was huge, such a dedicated woman, we all loved going too Mrs. Probert's classes, just too watch her in action. Whether it was playing the piano, singing, or leading a choir in competition, or acting as coordinator, for a high school class play, Mrs. Probert was a first class act, from top to bottom. Our condolence's to Mrs. Probert's family, she will be missed greatly, but we all know, she now walks with our Lord Jesus Christ, and will be conducting many choirs in Heaven, for His pleasure.

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**Bob Gastel** - January 02, 2017 at 04:48 PM

BS

“ Tony, Roberta, Randy, Tina, Reina, and all the Grands; Mary was such a wonderful person. I have great memories of her from the time I was a child in elementary school, from running all over the country Clogging together, traveling together and just having a wonderful friend. Lee equated the two of us to Alka seltzer and water. When we got together no one in the room could get a word into a conversation. She was such a wonderful person and had a positive effect on so many people. Cherish the memories, I am sure she is already leading a choir in heaven!

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**Barb Probert Stassen** - January 02, 2017 at 10:28 AM

MM

“ Mrs. Probert blessed my life as my music teacher both at Avilla and Jasper schools. She set a standard in music education that I have not seen matched by my children and grandchildren's music teachers. Mrs. Probert was an exceptional teacher and woman. My condolences and prayers are with you.

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**Mary Ellen Brewer Mirgan** - January 01, 2017 at 06:32 AM

TT

“*Mary was one of a kind! She was funny, caring, generous and loving. She was a special music teacher and we had a bond with this. She is singing in heaven and rejoice that she is in the angel choir.*”

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**Trudy Tunnell** - December 30, 2016 at 10:29 PM

MD

“*Mrs. Probert was such an inspiration to me in a thousand different ways. From square dancing, choir, encouraging me to accompany on the piano, not allowing us to give up... just goes on and on. Sr. 78!*”

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**Melody Knell Durant** - December 30, 2016 at 06:09 PM

KH

“*Kathy Brazeal Hensley has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.*”

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**Kathy Brazeal Hensley** - December 30, 2016 at 01:14 PM

JW

“*Dear Family, Your mom was always so sweet to me, when I married Steven she gave me a wonderful bridal shower at the church, I will always remember her kindness to me even though I was a complete stranger. She always made me smile when I saw her, she had a way of making people feel important and special. She will be dearly missed!*”

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**Jill Wilhelm** - December 30, 2016 at 12:51 PM

KH

“ My deepest sympathy for the family. I loved Mary very much , she was always good to me when I was there, and at church. Much love to you and your family. Kathy Brazeal Hensley

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**Kathy Brazeal Hensley** - December 30, 2016 at 12:47 PM

ST

“ My sympathies to her family, She was a beautiful lady inside and out, May God Comfort her family.

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**Sandy Teel** - December 30, 2016 at 09:55 AM

TF

“ I can't begin to express how much your mother has meant to me in my life, not just during school, but throughout my adult life also. She was always there to help me when I needed something and it was always a pleasure to be there to return the favors for her. I know she is having the time of her life in heaven, she's probably already taken charge of the choir! God Bless and comfort you in your time of grief.

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**Tina (Sweeney) Felkner** - December 30, 2016 at 08:55 AM

RH

“ Roberta, Randy, Tony: Your Mom was such a sweet special lady - she will truly be missed by you as well as us (her neighbor). She lived a long life of accomplishments. Treasure the memories during your lifetime.

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**Royce & Sue Hines** - December 30, 2016 at 01:03 AM

RH

“ So sorry to hear. Prayers for the family. I remember when Mary used to have her hair done by my mother and Roberta came with her. Roberta and I played outside. The Beatles were popular at the time. I would pretend to be one of The Beatles and Roberta pretended to be a screaming fan. It was so funny. Remember the good times, my friends!

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**Randy Hurrell** - December 29, 2016 at 11:47 PM

DR

“ My thoughts and prayers goes out to the family and my condolences to the family.They are singing in heaven tonight and rejoicing.

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**Darrell W Richmond** - December 29, 2016 at 10:27 PM

JR

“ Tony,Roberta,and Randy.  
So sorry to hear about your Mother passing.

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**Judith Robinson** - December 29, 2016 at 09:46 PM

MJ

“ Love, love, love Mrs. Probert! My thoughts and prayers are with her family. I had the pleasure of being her student beginning in 1974 and she will always be one of my favorite teachers. I always loved her shoes, her spunk, and her love for her students. Thank you Mrs. Probert for so many fun years in your classes. Love you?

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**Missy (Reynolds) James** - December 29, 2016 at 09:36 PM

DJ

“ Mrs. Probert was one of my favorite teachers. She always made me feel special when she saw me--asking about my family, about my life. She was a very sweet lady! She's in heaven right now directing and organizing a choir. Loved her.

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**Donita James** - December 29, 2016 at 09:30 PM

JW

“ Obituary does a wonderful job giving applause to a wonderful woman.

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**Jim and Patricia Wilcox** - December 29, 2016 at 09:15 PM

EF

“ Mary taught me how to play the piano when I was 6 years old. I remember her as being friendly, nice and very patient with me. Mu deepest sympathy to the family.

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**Elaine Thomas Franklin** - December 29, 2016 at 08:46 PM

DB

“ Mrs. Probert was the best music teacher every, you will be truly missed but always in our hearts. Love you

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**Debbie Buchannan** - December 29, 2016 at 07:50 PM

JM

“ Hugs and prayers she was one of our favorite teachers.

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**James and Pam McClintock** - December 29, 2016 at 07:23 PM

CL

“ *My deepest sympathy for your family. Mrs Probert was my favorite teacher of all. Her love for music was so evident and she made it fun for all.*

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**Cheryl Burnett Lofland** - December 29, 2016 at 06:59 PM

DD

“ *Mrs. Probert was loved by all who knew her. I am one of the many students she taught at Jasper who held her in high regard and fondness. She was one of those teachers who stays with you in your heart for a lifetime. My dad, Clyde Condon, worked alongside Mrs. Probert as a teacher and principal for many years at Jasper. He always appreciated all she did for her students. God Bless you and your family during this time.*

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**Denise Dieckhoff** - December 29, 2016 at 06:36 PM