



Mary Ellen McCormick Pliszka

June 7, 1931 - April 28, 2026

Mary Ellen McCormick Pliszka passed away peacefully on April 28, 2026 at 94 years of age in Houston, Texas.

Mary was born June 7, 1931, in Madison, Wisconsin. She was the third oldest in a family of nine surviving children. Mary had many stories about growing up during the Great Depression with a big family in a two-bedroom house that her parents bought new in 1930.

After graduating from East High School class of 1950, Mary worked as a nurse's aide at City Hospital in Madison, then as a secretary at Farmer's Mutual.

Mary met the love of her life, UW, Madison student George Pliszka, at a dance at Turner Hall where her own dad was working part-time as a bouncer. They married on August 30, 1952. The young couple then travelled to Houston, Texas where George had gained a position with Shell Oil Company. In the coming decades, many transfers to other US locations and one overseas assignment ensued. Through it all, Mary made sure her children were well taken care of while also hosting gatherings for friends and Shell co-workers and volunteering for local organizations.

In 1989, Mary and George retired to Santa Fe, New Mexico where they lived

eleven years before moving to Austin, Texas to be closer to their children and grandchildren. After George's death in 2020, Mary lived out the final years of her life at The Buckingham in Houston, Texas.

Throughout her life, Mary volunteered for many organizations. Among them were Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, PTA, UNICEF, and Santa Fe Opera. She gave her time helping patients in hospitals as a candy striper. Mary also taught CCD classes at St. John Vianney Catholic Church in Houston.

Mary will be remembered by her children Steven (Alice Narvaez), Diane (Don Geller), and Nancy (Eric Sirgo); grandchildren Matthew (Dori Snyder) Geller, Audrey (Clark Connett) Sirgo, Andrew Pliszka, Alex Sirgo, and David Geller; great-granddaughter Charlotte Connett, as well as many nephews, nieces, grand and great-grand-nephews and nieces.

Mary's family would like to express thanks for the care that she received from the Buckingham Memory Care Staff and her private aids from Always Best Care, especially Luciana Rickson.

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

~ Irish Blessing

Tribute Wall

KG

“ My favorite memory was at my parents condo in Madison WI, when Aunt Mary jumped up and said it's wine time. I looked at my watch and it was 10:30am. I loved this woman. May she rest in peace with her wonderful husband George.

Kim McCormick Goes - May 04 at 10:01 PM

AE

“ July 17, 1940 Mary age 9 walked up and down Talmadge St Madison, WI. She rang each neighborhoods door bell and announced that she had a baby sister! She had five brothers!

anne endres - April 30 at 07:52 PM

AE

Six brothers!

anne endres - April 30 at 07:58 PM



I have many fond memories of Mrs. Pliszka going all the way back to when Steve and I were in high school together. She was a very funny, intelligent, and beautiful lady. Rest in Peace, Mrs. Pliszka.

John Petruzzi - May 02 at 10:12 AM

DP

Thank you, Aunt Anne for this story! I am including it in a longer obituary.

Diane

Diane Pliszka - May 14 at 03:07 PM

DP

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Mary is preceded in death by her husband, George C. Pliszka, her parents Robert and Leone (Martin) McCormick, brothers John, Robert (Mary), William (Nyla), George (Lorraine), Thomas (Lorraine), Richard (Janice), Michael (Patricia), and Patrick (Patricia) McCormick.

Mary will be remembered by her sister Anne (Michael) Endres, and sisters-in-law, Patricia Knuteson McCormick and Lorraine Schiffner McCormick.

Mary would often tell the story about how happy she was when she found out at nine years old that after many brothers, her mother had given birth to a girl (her sister, Anne). Mary walked up and down Talmadge Street. She rang each neighbor's doorbell and announced "I have a sister!"

Mary will also be remembered by her children Steven (Alice Narvaez), Diane (Don Geller), and Nancy (Eric Sirgo); grandchildren Matthew (Dori Snyder) Geller, Audrey (Clark Connett) Sirgo, Andrew Pliszka, Alex Sirgo, and David Geller; great-granddaughter Charlotte Connett, as well as many nephews, nieces, grand and great-grand-nephews and nieces.

Diane Pliszka - May 14 at 03:51 PM

