



MARY (BARTOL) DUNNIGAN

September 10, 1952 - June 7, 2021

Born in Manhattan in 1952, Mary Maureen (Bartol) Dunnigan began her life as the daughter of proud parents Lawrence and Margaret Bartol. At two years old Mary tragically lost her father to a car accident. Poised from the start and elegant as a magnolia blossom, Mary was raised by her loving mother Margie with support and affection from her Uncle George and Aunt Lilly. A studious and superbly talented Catholic school girl at St. Anne's Parish in Brentwood, NY, Mary was destined to march to the beat of an Irish bodhran.

As a young woman, Mary developed a spirit characterized by her innate compassion for animals. She found camaraderie in her childhood friend Virginia, who shared many moral and ethical convictions about the world. Without an abundance of resources, the two found utility in making the best of what they had. The feisty duo would hang out with other teens at the Ross Memorial Park in Brentwood, where someone always had a transistor radio. There was a cement gazebo where they would sit and talk, dance, and sing songs for hours. They would walk around town stopping in at the luncheonette nearby for chocolate eclairs or swing into the pizza place to fold boxes for the owner in exchange for pizza. With a rider's pass from Virginia's dad who worked the LIRR, the two would sometimes go into Queens to pick up White Castle cheeseburgers and visit relatives.

Mary's dynamic and quick-witted character were forged during some of the

most riveting times in history. Mary often regaled about being at Shea stadium in 1965 when she saw the Beatles take the stage and how a few years later when she was found on her way to Woodstock via an “all-points bulletin”.

Mary was unapologetically, self-proclaimed, “responsibly reckless” and she earned the right to be. The spirit of a long blonde-haired, blue eyed hippie adorning homemade clothing who loved sewing, horseback riding for show, amaster of photography, and could paint awe-inspiring pictures that would rival Bob Ross.

At an early age in the developing rural communities of Long Island Mary met who would become her husband of 21 years, Patrick (Danny) Dunnigan. Like many childhood sweethearts, they started by throwing rocks at each other from across the street and to be frank, never really stopped until they separated in 1996. It was in 1977 they had their first boy, Richard (Richie) Dunnigan. Six years later in 1983, Their second son, Brian Dunnigan was born.

In the late-1980's, shortly after Mary lost her mother, she soon had to fight a new battle. Mary stood firmly for principle and equal-rights among all men and women. So when the town supervisor sought to rezone and lay claim to her childhood home under eminent domain to build a commercial shopping center, he was met with staunch resistance from a fierce opponent.

Mary decidedly moved her family upstate in 1989 seeking a calmer pace of life. She began a new career as a CSR at NBT in Sidney, NY, and quickly batted her way up the ladder by completing her degree in finance and accounting by taking evening courses through SUNY Delhi and Morrisville. Mary quickly became a travelling branch manager; instrumental in converting acquisitions from Plattsburgh to Pennsylvania making an impression every step of the way and essentially framing the growth of NBT Bank of Norwich.

Mary also sat on many boards during this period, not the least of which was with the Sidney Boys & Girls Club.

Mary's career was only one leg up on her passion for dancing as she began a new chapter filled with adventure, traveling, and a whole lot of Irish step dancing with the Claddagh Ring dancers of Norwich, NY. As she had done in her earlier days, Mary touched many lives across a desk, across a stage, and down the parade route. The epitome of a Virgo and as a humanitarian, she always welcomed those in need of a friend. Mary was fortunate to travel to Ireland with a close group of friends and return to Bethel, NY, with her dear friend Bonnie as just a few of many many more memories that were made.

Mary's life came full circle after she retired from NBT bank and hung up her Irish dancing shoes for a kayak. She became gracefully known as "Nana" to her three adoring granddaughters; Delaney, Kaydance, and Adelynn. Holding onto her spirit, Mary volunteered as a steering committee member for Chenango Change. During this time Mary also served on boards at Creative Works and assisted painting workshops at The Artists' Palette.

Mary was meticulously cared for by her ex-husband, Danny, while she fought the grandest battle of her life spanning six months. Just hours before her passing she gave her grandchildren one more gift of pure laughter as she used filters to make funny faces over Facebook video chat for Addie's 5th Birthday party. On Monday, June 7, 2021, Mary went peacefully in the arms of her younger son, Brian at his home in Syracuse, NY. Mary's final wishes were to be cremated and spread in the Grand Canyon by her two sons. A destination they had hoped to visit together. A celebration of life will be organized and celebrated at Coleman's pub in Syracuse, NY in July.

For the magnitude of her kindness and generosity, sense of humor and free

spirit, for her ethical and moral virtue, Mary is venerated by all as a truly special Angel. We lift her up.

To honor Mary we ask that you raise a glass saying your favorite Irish prayer for a wonderful woman, mother, nana and friend. To leave a legacy, please consider making a donation to an organization of your choice which furthers the arts, cares for animals or supports human rights.

BAGOZZI TWINS FUNERAL HOME, Solvay, NY, has care of arrangements. Please share online tributes and memories at www.bagozzitwins.com.

Tribute Wall

DE

“ My dearest Best friend and my earth sign twin. I will Forever cherish the 11 years we had together and I will be forever grateful I got to call you my nana. I carry our moments everywhere I go Especially our clothespin moments in the parking lot of acco with Kaydance and I waiting for dad to get out of work. I always loved making popcorn in the kitchen with you and Bailey laughing together. I enjoyed our shared love for our fur babies Eva Bailey and Bella. I always enjoyed every second I had with you even if we didn't always see eye to eye on something. I may be writing this 4 year later but I never actually had the guts to write on here. I will always love you No matter the distance I love you Nana <3



Delaney - September 28, 2025 at 01:33 PM

VK

“ Mary and I both loved animals, her heart was so big. Mary was always fun to be around with a positive attitude and never a mean word about anyone. Miss her, and so wish we had more time together as friends. Virginia Keutmann

Virginia Keutmann - December 31, 2024 at 11:52 PM



“ MARY (BARTOL) DUNNIGAN

January 21, 2023 at 02:11 PM

RI

“ *Richie lit a candle in memory of MARY (BARTOL) DUNNIGAN*



Richie - January 15, 2022 at 01:15 AM

DF

“ *Dear Richie, Brian and family,
I was so very sorry to learn of Mary's passing. My sincere condolences to all of you. I imagine she has left a big empty place in your hearts and homes.
I knew her from our years of Irish dancing where we did a lot more than just dance. Friendship and fun were and still are a big part of the group.
Mary had a wonderful time on that 2009 trip to Ireland, savoring every experience and often mentioning 'my boys'. The Cliffs of Moher were closed to visitors during an Atlantic Gale.but that didn't stop Christine and Mary, long blond hair flying, from fighting their way through the wind and rain to see the cliffs. Thankfully, they weren't blown away.
May Mary now be resting and breathing in peace.
Donna Farquhar*

Donna G Farquhar - June 29, 2021 at 12:56 PM

RD

“ *Richard Dunnigan lit a candle in memory of MARY (BARTOL) DUNNIGAN*



Richard Dunnigan - June 14, 2021 at 04:51 PM

CC

“ From the first time I met Mary back in 1995 line dancing at Touch of Texas, to her joining our Claddagh Ring Irish Dancers' group in 1996, to our trip to Ireland in 2009 and all of the times in between...Mary was legendary and truly one of a kind. A beautiful person inside and out and her smile could light up the darkest of rooms. Her laugh, her zest for life, and her love of her boys, granddaughters and everything Irish will live on in her spirit remaining with us.

May God watch over Richie, Brian and the girls. A piece of my heart left with her - she was truly loved by everyone she came in contact with on her journey on earth. Fly high Mary & dance a jig for Jesus!

*Christine Carnrike
Norwich NY*

Christine Carnrike - June 10, 2021 at 11:30 AM

BJ

“ I knew Mary through working at NBT. She always had a smile and a laugh. After she retired any time I saw her it was like no time had passed. I will truly miss her antics, laugh and jokes. Fly high Girl!



Bev Jackson - June 10, 2021 at 11:19 AM

VK

“ Mary 🌸 I knew when we became friends back in HS that I met my match, so fortunate to have had the opportunity to be her friend. I have never met anyone like her, we shared a love of animals, music, artistic talents, and people, she will be forever in my thoughts. RIP dear friend.



Virginia Keutmann - June 09, 2021 at 10:44 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of MARY (BARTOL) DUNNIGAN.



June 09, 2021 at 10:42 PM



“ Share a memory? My mind has been flooded with all the wonderful memories that we have created over the last 20 something years that it's hard to choose one.

Mary came into my life not long after I lost my mom to cancer. We became instant friends over our love of horses. Plus she understood what I was going through as she lost her mom too. She knew what it was like to be a single mom and fight to survive no matter what life threw at you. We saw each other through the tough times and broke hearts with long talks, good times and a lot of laughter. So I can't pick one memory because there are just too many good memories. But I can tell you the thing that stands out the most is that she was one of those rare, one of a kind friends that you would never forget and I felt the love she had for me and my kids as much as we loved her and her boys.

Bonnie Page-Izzie - June 09, 2021 at 10:09 PM

DB

“ The most loving obituary I have ever read. So sorry for your loss ❤️

Dawn Torstrup coworker of Brian - June 09, 2021 at 09:36 PM

DB

The most loving obituary I have ever read. So sorry for your loss ❤️

Dawn Torstrup coworker of Brian - June 09, 2021 at 09:37 PM

GT

“ I am so sorry for your loss. I met Mary early in my career with nbt bank and I immediately knew that she was a special person who I consider fortunate to have had the opportunity worked with and consider her a friend.

gary touron - June 09, 2021 at 08:32 PM

NY

“*Mary was a fun loving down to earth lady! She will be missed by our family, as she was included in our celebrations, whether bday or Thanksgiving. Brian & Richie, we are so very sorry for your loss.* 💙💙



Nick & Yolanda - June 09, 2021 at 05:15 PM

MC

I was in the Irish dance group with Mary. We surprised each other one day when we found out we both graduated from Brentwood High on Long Island. I was 4 years ahead of her. We had a lot of memories from all our dancing performances. A really nice person who will be missed by everyone who knew her. So sorry to the family.

Margie Casey - June 14, 2021 at 08:03 PM



What a wonderful tribute to a special women. I met Mary in 10th grade and we shared many special times together during High school. We lost contact after our marriages. About a yr ago, she found me on Facebook. We had a nice stroll down memory lane; during a long phone call. I am glad we got to catch up. Sorry we didn't get a chance to meet up with each other again. I am so sad for your Boys, and your Grand daughters. May they find comfort in their memories. Soar With The Angels My Friend Till We Meet Again. ❤️

Ginette Barrett - June 14, 2021 at 11:24 PM