



## Mary Frances Merwin

November 12, 1949 - October 11, 2010

Mary Frances Merwin, 60, of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, passed away at home on Monday, Oct. 11, 2010. She was born in Chicago, Ill., on Nov. 12, 1949, a daughter of James Patrick and Mary Claire Sullivan. She completed her undergraduate studies in education at Edgewood College in Madison, Wis. She received her master's degree in educational leadership from Marian College in Fond du Lac. On Nov. 27, 1971, she married Gary Lee Merwin at St. Thomas More Catholic Church in Munster, Ind. She is survived by her husband, Gary; two daughters, Katherine Hareid (Aaron) and Margaret Merwin, both of Minneapolis, Minn.; two sons, Joseph Merwin (Sandra) of Jacksonville, Fla. and Luke Merwin of Minneapolis, Minn.; three grandchildren, Ava Hareid, Henry Hareid and Eliannah Merwin. Mary Fran is further survived by her mother of Orange, Calif.; and eight siblings, James Sullivan Jr. (Elizabeth), Munster, Ind., John Sullivan (Nancy), Fairfax, Va., Michael Sullivan (Joan), Cincinnati, Ohio, Matthew Sullivan, Davis, Calif., Anne Daly (Malachy), Antioche, Calif., Jerry Sullivan (Lorna), Los Angeles, Calif., Margaret Glick (Brian), Mt. Baldy, Calif., Patricia Bornhop (Andrew), Orange, Calif.; and many nieces and nephews. Mary Fran was preceded in death by her father; her maternal grandparents, Mary Frances and Irwin Wiley; and her paternal grandparents, John and Anna Sullivan. Mary Fran's personal interests included social justice, mercy, kindness, compassion and a particular concern for those living in poverty. The family will receive relatives and friends on Friday, Oct. 15 from 4 to 8 p.m. at Mach Funeral Chapel &

Crematory, 31 E. Division St., Fond du Lac; and from 10 to 11 a.m. at Holy Family Catholic Church, 271 Fourth Street Way, Fond du Lac on Saturday, Oct. 16. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 16, 2010, at Holy Family Catholic Church, with Rev. Victor Capriolo officiating. Burial will follow in Ledgeview Memorial Park. A memorial service will be held on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2010, at 4:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center of the Fond du Lac High School, 801 Campus Drive, Fond du Lac. Memorials in Mary Fran's name can be sent to the National Brain Tumor Society at: 124 Watertown Street, Suite 2D, Watertown, MA 02472.

# Tribute Wall

CT

“ We can still see Mary Fran hug every single graduate at our son's Graduation. He remembers how hard she hugged him and how sincere she was about wanting every one of those young students to succeed. We have lost an angel here on earth but now she has let her pain go and has become God's very special angel. Our sincere condolences to her family.

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**Carl, Trudy, Cody Taylor** - October 18, 2010 at 09:08 AM

CL

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TH

“ The entire City of Fond du Lac is better for Mary Fran's presence among us. Her inspiring example of courage, self discipline and love, both as an educator and a human being, is her legacy and a standard we should all aspire to.  
With respect, appreciation and thanks,  
Tom Herre FDL City Manager

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**tom herre** - October 16, 2010 at 02:58 PM

BA

“ I will miss her and her calming personality. She was a good friend and a great boss. She will be missed.

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**Brian Appleman** - October 16, 2010 at 02:17 PM

TS

“ I was fortunate to teach when Mary Fran was principal at GHS and then FHS. She was always a great listener and I was always thankful for her complete support, two of the most important skills for a leader. I'll always remember Mary Fran as a caring and thoughtful person. What a loss for all of us.

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**Tom Strauss** - October 16, 2010 at 10:28 AM

PM

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

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**Patrick McClone** - October 16, 2010 at 08:22 AM

TW

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**tom herre of fond du lac, Wi** - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

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**Brian Appleman of Fond du Lac** - October 16, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ U will be missed. U where a great principle at the high school when i was a student there.

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**Steven H Andrews** - October 15, 2010 at 05:13 PM

ML

“ I am so sorry to hear of your loss. Although I never had the pleasure to meet Mary Fran, I have always felt a connection to her, because....I actually have been mistaken for her many, many times. People have stopped me at the Mall, grocery shopping, Mcdonalds, etc, and first ask me if I am her, and then say I look exactly like her. And my name is Mary also. My 2 older children went to Fondy High and always talked very highly of her. My older daughter told Mary Fran that I look just like her, and Mary said she wanted to meet me. Unfortunatly that never happened. I wish you all well.

---

**Mary Leege** - October 15, 2010 at 11:08 AM

PB

“ Mrs. Merwin was a terrific woman. She helped me though a very rough time in high school, and I will always be grateful to her for that. I wish there was more I could have done for her. This world was blessed to have a women like her! There wasn't anything she couldn't do. I am so very sorry for you loss. Heaven is definitely lucky to be receiving her as an Angel :-). Take care of each other - your mom/wife prided herself on her family! You are all so wonderful!

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**Pam (Ozolins) Barr** - October 15, 2010 at 08:48 AM

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SB

“ To the family of Mrs Merwin: She was truely an angel and an amazing women. There are few people in this world that are considered role models and your mother was one of them. She will be missed greatly.

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**Sara Benzal** - October 14, 2010 at 07:45 PM

DE

“ My deepest sympathy to the family of Mary Fran. I had opportunities to talk to her when she and I were taking treatments. She was so strong and optimistic all the time. She was a true "warrior" in fighting this and she has earned her wings in the doors of our heavenly Father. May she rest in peace. She made a difference in the lives of many.

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**Debbie** - October 14, 2010 at 07:37 PM

AI

“ I am so sorry for your loss. We looked forward to seeing Mary Fran in by us. Her positive spirit was such an inspiration. Never once did she complain...always had a smile on her face. I can see she raised her children to be the same way! God Bless.

---

**A nurse from Medical Imaging** - October 14, 2010 at 07:20 PM

JH

“ Mary Fran was one of the first high school administrators I got to know when I moved to the community. I quickly learned how caring she was for the children. The students respected and loved her. That's not an easy feat for a principle of a school that size. She was a truly special individual - caring, compassionate, and always involved to make the lives of those around her better. She will be missed, but always in our memories.

---

**Jo Ann Hall** - October 14, 2010 at 07:09 PM

SJ

“ Mrs. Merwin, what a very special lady, so thoughtful, so kind, what a difference she has made in so many lives, truly one of a kind God Bless you.... The Johnson Family

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**sharon johnson** - October 14, 2010 at 05:43 PM

PS

“ *Mary Frances Merwin*

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**Penny Schultz** - October 14, 2010 at 05:41 PM

LJ

“ *to all of the merwin familes,i have known a lot of you for many years . mary fran was a very special lady, she always had a kind word for me for all the years i worked for their company.she helped me over a difficult time in my life many years go and i have never forgotten that.she will be missed. take care and remember she was loved by a lot of people*

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**les johnson** - October 14, 2010 at 12:03 PM

JU

“ *RIP Mrs. Merwin, you were truly an inspirational woman. My deepest sympathies to your family.*

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**Juanita** - October 14, 2010 at 11:20 AM

RA

“ *Ms. Merwin has inspired me to this day, as many teachers in FDL have. Thank you to her wonderful service to the children and families of the community. She will be missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve. Ms. Merwin earned her wings and is at peace.*

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**Renee (Auman) Anderson** - October 14, 2010 at 10:51 AM

KB

“ Merwin family and loved ones: Thank you for sharing your wife, mother, daughter and sister with so many of us in the greater Fond du Lac area. Mary Fran was a beautiful woman whose grace and spirit uplifted many. I am blessed to have her in some of my fondest memories. She was always one of God's earthly angels and now will continue to watch us from above. God's blessings and grace on you all.

---

**Katie Haak Bey** - October 14, 2010 at 08:47 AM

TW

“ If the world had more people like Mary Fran it would be a better place for all. To her family, may our Lord be by your side in this time of great loss. Please know that Mary Fran did more for this community than ever could be put into words. God bless.

---

**The Wyants** - October 14, 2010 at 08:16 AM

TK

“ Our deepest sympathy to all of the Merwin family. Mary Fran touched all of us in very wonderful ways. Like many others , we will miss her spirit.

---

**Tom, Mary , Angela , Laura Kraus** - October 14, 2010 at 08:02 AM

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**A nurse from Medical Imaging of Fond du Lac** - October 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MS

“ To Mary Fran's Family,  
There are no words that fully describe what an amazing woman she was. She truly made a difference for so many people and for this city. She definitely has earned her wings. May God bless all of you.

---

**mother of former students** - October 13, 2010 at 08:42 PM

LT

“ Please accept our deepest sympathy in your loss. Mary Fran was a special person that will be remembered by many. Your family is in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

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**Lois & Mike Thome** - October 13, 2010 at 08:04 PM

NA

“ Mrs. Merwin was an incredible woman and principle, she will be missed. My condolences to her family and everyone whose life she touched.

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**Natasha** - October 13, 2010 at 07:36 PM

AN

“ Thinking of your family during this difficult time. Mary Fran will always be remembered fondly.

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**anonymous** - October 13, 2010 at 06:58 PM

JM

“ Maggie-Our deepest sympathies. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers during this time. May all of the wonderful memories comfort you during this tough time. Take care,Joe and Lindsey Michels

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**Joe and Lindsey Michels** - October 13, 2010 at 12:00 AM

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**Joe and Lindsey Michels** - January 01, 1753 at 09:19 PM