



## Marbeth J Shay

August 3, 2017

Marbeth J. Shay, 75, of Orange Beach, Alabama went to be with her Savior early in the morning on August 3, 2017.

Marbeth, known as “Gammy” by many, was surrounded at home by her loved ones on her final days, after being diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer.

Marbeth will be remembered and celebrated for her abiding faith, her quick wit and jokes, her marvelous story telling, her generous heart and especially her love of children and animals.

Marbeth loved her family so very much. Her impact on all who truly knew her is immeasurable.

“Although she be but little, she is fierce”, was a quote that most definitely described Marbeth. Marbeth was very protective of her loved ones. If you were to violate that trust, you had better watch out, as she would have a sharp tongue for those so deserving.

Marbeth’s achievements were as diverse as her bubbly personality:

Graduated from the Academy of Holy Names Catholic Girls High School in Albany, New York.

Graduated from Foothill Junior College in California with an AA in Drama.  
Graduated from Douglas College, the Women's division of Rutgers University, in 1972.

Marbeth's capacity to help others was apparent throughout her life, especially in her efforts with being a first responder. Marbeth was an EMT in New Jersey from 1970-79. She ran the day crew for the Marlboro First Aid Squad for about 5 years and as an EMT was also a Volunteer Instructor Trainer for the New Jersey Health Department.

Marbeth was a strong woman, a leader. In 1980 Marbeth founded The Word Store, later to become East Coast Computer Systems (ECCS) in Red Bank, New Jersey, as a word processing business. The business flourished rapidly and was on the INC 500 several years in a row. As CEO of ECCS, Marbeth was a mentor to many who have gone on to succeed in their personal lives and business careers. In 1993 ECCS went public on the NASDAQ. In 1994 Marbeth retired.

Her retirement was short lived when she decided to move to Savannah and open a contemporary art gallery, RAF Gallery. Over the years to follow, the gallery received multiple prestigious awards including, "BEST New Art Gallery in the US" and several NICHE awards. After relocating the Gallery to Colorado, Marbeth retired and moved in with her daughter and family in 2004.

The family moved from Colorado to Fairhope, Alabama in 2006 and made Orange Beach their home. Marbeth enjoyed several years of exploring her interests with Book Clubs, Wine Clubs, New-Comer's club and most importantly became a member of the Orange Beach United Methodist Church. Marbeth then found a calling and passion as a Stephen's Minister. She offered comfort to those in need of healing and had a profound impact on their quality of life.

Marbeth had many other pursuits that included; baby-sitting, pet sitting, glass art, books, great conversation, joke telling, shopping and fashion.

In-between all these achievements, hobbies and passions- Marbeth was very busy being an amazing daughter, sister, aunt, cousin, niece, God mother, mother, grandmother and friend.

Marbeth's family and friends will miss her dearly. Marbeth leaves behind many loved ones who will cherish her memory always.

As Marbeth was preparing for this final journey she was quite explicit with her wishes-

“Celebrate life, enjoy some champagne, give God praise and love one another”

Marbeth's Family invites you to join us in  
Celebrating Marbeth's Life  
Saturday, August 12th  
At 4pm  
The Orange Beach United Methodist Church  
Orange Beach, AL

A reception will follow to  
Celebrate in a style Marbeth would love!

Marbeth would prefer, in lieu of flowers, donations be made in her name to either:

The Orange Beach United Methodist Church

2875 Canal Road, Orange Beach, AL 36561

or

Community Hospice of Baldwin County

1450 N. McKenzie Street, Foley, AL 36535

Please go to [www.casonfuneralservice.com](http://www.casonfuneralservice.com) to sign Memorial Service  
Arrangements are by Cason Funeral Service in Foley Al

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Service

AUG 12. 4:00 PM (CT)

Orange Beach United Methodist Church  
28751 Canal Drive  
Orange Beach, AL 36561

# Tribute Wall

AM

“ We're so sorry to hear of Marebeth's passing. We use to have brief summer visits when our family travelled to Albany to see all of our relatives. I remember visiting with Grandma Norris at her home in Holmdel, N.J. on a couple of occasions after moving to Chappaqua, New York. Marbeth did very well in business and had a range of interests throughout her life. I recall one story when we had just arrived for a visit in New Jersey. We got to her house and wondered where everyone was and found a pot of shrimp boiling on the stove. A short time after, Marbeth appeared saying that she had just been called to assist in an emergency situation. The last time I saw Marbeth was when she attended my son's wedding at the chapel on Fripp Island in 1996.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Elizabeth, from the Molin Family

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**Audrey Murray Molin** - September 06, 2017 at 05:55 PM

LI

“ Our deepest sympathy Liz to you and your family of the loss of your Mom, Marbeth

You all are in our prayers.

Love.

Your cousins - the Norris children ( MaryGay and Andy, Ben and MaryJo, Judy and David, John and Jane, Lisa and Joe and their families

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**Lisa** - September 02, 2017 at 02:42 PM

CC

“ Carol Cornwell purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Marbeth J Shay.



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**Carol Cornwell** - August 10, 2017 at 12:46 PM

PW

“ Marbeth was one of those super supportitve persons of those around here, those in leadreship, and those not. She was no respecer of persons. She knew her Lord, but was also a seeker of answers to things that happend to her in life. I suppose now in the Father's house those answers have come to her, or the questions themsleves may not matter any more. For she is in absolute peace and joy before the Father's throne. OUr loss is her gain. Her support for my good wife Carolyn and I will always be remembered and look forward to seeing her agian in a brighter situation for us all. Rest in peace yes, but more, rest in great JOY, Marbeth...

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**Pastor Jim White** - August 09, 2017 at 09:39 PM

KW

“ As sad as you are, it is clear why you want to celebrate the amazing life your mom lived. Most of what you told about your Mom I did not know since we did not see each other that often growing up! May your happy memories bring the comfort you all need to get through it. Although I do not have many, I found a few old photos of your family, a few from Uncle Bill Shay's place when I was still in high school, and a few from a back yard party my parents had in Albany when I had just graduated from college and had returned from a Europe tour. If you ever want me to scan those in to share, please let me know! I've done that many times for people (although the old photo quality is terrible!) I sent a card to the address that I send the Christmas card each year. Take care from my Shay and West families, (Karen Shay West).

Karen Shay West - August 09, 2017 at 05:07 PM

SA

“ Marbeth has been a friend since 1986 and she will be in my heart forever.



Susan Arscott - August 08, 2017 at 09:45 PM

DF

“ Dubé & Wegler Family purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Marbeth J Shay.



Dubé & Wegler Family - August 08, 2017 at 08:31 PM