



Mary Ellen McAnally

January 21, 1939 - November 8, 2018

Mary Ellen McAnally passed this life on November 8, 2018 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She was born on January 21, 1939 to her parents Virgil Pafford McAnally and Mary Francis (Handy) Ruble in Vandalia, Illinois. Mary was an extremely accomplished individual and holds her doctorate in Religion. During Mary's life she accomplished a number of things, she was a: civil rights activist, Nimrod board member, board member for the Oklahoma Religion Coalition for Reproduction Services, board member of Tulsa Metropolitan Ministry, Pastor for Peace, Animal Aid Volunteer, Domestic Violence Intervention Services Volunteer, Oklahoma Conference of Churches member, 1997 volunteer of the year for the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, she was a published poet and published seven books of poetry, Editor for Cardinal Press, Cofounder of the Open Door Coffee House, Award of Merit from Fellowship Congregational Church, long time employee at Planned Parenthood, board member at Church of the Restoration, Interim minister at both Bartlesville and Stillwater Unitarian Churches, member of the College Hill Presbyterian Church.

Mary was preceded in death by her son E. Bambata McAnally and her late husband Ethridge Knight.

She was survived by her sister Pamela A. Buescher, daughter Mary Tandi McAnally, grandsons Kevin Montez McAnally, Miles Parker McAnally and Romello McAnally, one granddaughter Himiko Belzora McAnally along with many other family members and friends who will miss her dearly.

A celebration of life service will be held 11:00am, Monday November 26, 2018 at the College Hill Presbyterian Church, 714 S. Columbia, Tulsa, Oklahoma. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to College Hills Presbyterian Church, World Wildlife Fund, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, Nature Conservancy or the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Tribute Wall



“ *When I moved back to OK I did not know anyone in the writing community. Mary invited me to read at a coffeehouse in Tulsa. We became friends through the years. I loved her energy, her hopeful outlook, her determination to right some of the wrongs she saw. I have no doubt that she made the world a better place. Rest well, Mary. Your memory, along with your truthful, beautiful poetry will continue to live in our hearts. Joan S. Isom*

Joan Isom - December 10, 2018 at 12:13 PM

SB

“ *Mary poured her energy and her heart into serving the UU Church of Stillwater. In so many ways she made the world a better place. I am glad to have known her.*

Susan P Bullard - November 16, 2018 at 08:43 PM

JK

“ *I had the pleasure of meeting Mary a number of years ago when she came to assist me with care giving for my mom. We had delightful conversations about poetry, her life, her work, and her insights into making sense & finding beauty in a challenging world. My mom enjoyed her company so much. She gave so much to this community, supporting many worthwhile causes. She was and remains a "Tulsa treasure!"*

Janice Kuharski - November 14, 2018 at 07:35 PM

BG

I met Mary briefly in Stillwater. We became really acquainted over 20 years later in Tulsa, where I learned of her poetry and shared her 'peace activism. (She was a member of Tulsa Peace Fellowship and a co-founder of Peace House Tulsa.) I never knew of her earlier life until I read about her in the current (December 2018) issue of Harper's Magazine. She and her children are mentioned (page 11) in an article about her late husband, Etheridge Knight, also a published poet. Mary was indeed a Tulsa treasure.

B. Geary - November 24 at 3:20 pm

B. Geary - November 24, 2018 at 03:26 PM

ND

“ *Mary and I go way back.*

She was (is) the beacon of truth, justice and the American way. She was humanity incarnate. She stood for things. She Believed. She helped. She prayed... and on occasion, she laughed.

She wrote. Sometimes it rhymed, sometimes it sermonized, always it was her. You could not have a truer friend than Mary.

But then all of you who are reading this – know that.

I, (we all,) miss you Mary. Keep an eye open for us.

*Love,
Norman*

Norman Dolph - November 13, 2018 at 10:16 AM