



Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes

April 2, 1949 - June 17, 2025

Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes, passed away peacefully on June 17, 2025, in Charleston, West Virginia, at the age of 76, with her loving family by her side.

Born on April 2, 1949, in Oak Hill, West Virginia, Mary Ellen was the daughter of Paul and Margie Sneed. She graduated from Collins High School in 1967 and went on to dedicate her life to both public service and her community. A proud civil servant registered with the State of West Virginia; Mary Ellen worked for the West Virginia Department of Highways in the Legal Division. Her career also included positions as a legal secretary at the law firms Goodwin & Goodwin and Marvin Masters. Later, she served as a secretary for Kanawha County Schools for an impressive 30 years.

Mary Ellen's professional accomplishments were only part of her story. She was a woman known for her warmth, humor, and boundless generosity. With a personality that could light up any room, she never met a stranger. Her gift of gab and genuine charm turned acquaintances into lifelong friends. Among those closest to her were her beloved "YA-YA's," a tight-knit circle of dear friends whose bond spanned decades.

She was a devoted mother to Beth Given, Ben Adkins (David), and Kelly Adkins (her youngest who stood vigil by her side living with her and daily

caretaker the last few years) a cherished grandmother to Lauren and Garrett Given. She also held a special place in her heart for Gene, her ex-husband and dear friend. Her extended family of close friends brought joy and comfort throughout her life. Mary Ellen was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Margie Sneed, and by her husband Charles "Chuck" Hughes.

Mary Ellen's home was always open—her kitchen often filled with the comforting aromas of homemade soups, spaghetti, or chicken and dumplings. Many still fondly recall receiving meals in mason jars labeled MEA or MEH—jars she jokingly insisted must be returned if one hoped for more. Hosting gatherings brought her immense joy; she loved nothing more than bringing people together around food, laughter, and shared stories.

Her passions were many: she loved to cook and entertain; she was an avid reader who treasured her books; she enjoyed playing cards and board games; and she had a particular fondness for crossword puzzles. Known affectionately as the “jitterbug queen,” Mary Ellen could light up any dance floor with her moves.

Through every season of life—joyful or difficult—Mary Ellen carried herself with compassion, resilience, faith, and humor. Even during times of grief or pain, she remained selfless and strong, always thinking of others before herself. Her ability to laugh at life’s challenges made her a force to be reckoned with—and a source of strength for those around her.

Mary Ellen held close the memories of her first family back home in Oak Hill and spoke often of the cousins and relatives spread across the country who helped shape who she was. Her love for them endured throughout her life.

One of Mary Ellen’s final wishes was that those who loved her not cry for her

but instead remember something funny about her—and find peace. She urged everyone to be gentle with themselves and to forgive freely. That spirit of kindness defined how she lived—and how she left this world: full of love, grace, and an undying heart of gold.

A celebration of Mary Ellen's life will be held from 4 to 6:00 p.m., Saturday, June 21, 2025 at Nichols Bartlett Funeral Home, St. Albans, WV.

The family encourages anyone who would like to share a memory of our mother, to bring that with them or send an email to: bgiven45@gmail.com or we will also be allowing anyone who feels they want to speak be free to do so at the end of the service.

You may visit Mary Ellen's tribute page at BartlettNichols.com to share memories and condolences with the family.

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home, locally owned and located 409 Sixth Ave., St. Albans, WV is honored to serve the Adkins-Hughes family.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 21. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home
409 Sixth Avenue
Saint Albans, WV 25177
(304) 727-4325

Tribute Wall

SG

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Sue (Nichols) Gillman - July 04, 2025 at 05:03 PM

JD

“ I have great memories of working with her ...she was so bubbly
...prayers for family

Jo-Ann Dodd - June 23, 2025 at 08:19 AM

MW

“ I was a classmate of Mary Ellen's through grade school and high school. She knew everyone and everyone knew her and if they didn't they missed out on not knowing one of the warmest, kindness most gregarious personalities of all time. I got to catch up with her at reunions over the years. Most recently I ran into her at the playhouse in St Albans, that was a wonderful surprise and just like the Mary Ellen I knew and will always remember; so full of life.

Matthew Wender - June 22, 2025 at 02:22 PM

SM

“ My love, heart, and prayers are with all that love Mary Ellen. So many beautiful memories and sidesplitting laughs with her and Ben at the Collins High 1967 class reunions. Getting ready for the events with adjoining hotel rooms, our crazy drop-ins at *The Price is Right*, and all our shenanigans will forever be some of my fondest memories! Until our reunion in heaven, your loving memory is eternal, Mary Ellen. ❤️ ✨ 🙏

Stephanie Minnich - June 21, 2025 at 02:18 PM

CL

“ I am physically unable to attend her service today to share so many wonderful memories I have of Mary Ellen. She will always be in my heart. Some of the best times of my life were spent with her and her family. We shared countless wonderful meals that she loved cooking for anyone who walked through her door. Nothing ever came close to the laughter we always shared. The world turned a little less bright when she left. RIP sweet lady. We will reconnect someday.

Carol Garten Long - June 21, 2025 at 12:43 PM

DF

“ Donna, Denny and family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.



Donna, Denny and family - June 20, 2025 at 12:48 PM

DF

“ Donna, Denny and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.

Donna, Denny and family - June 20, 2025 at 12:48 PM



“ 204 files added to the album LifeTributes



Bartlett-Nichols Funeral Home - June 20, 2025 at 12:40 PM



“ I’ve had the privilege of knowing Mary Ellen since elementary school. We became close friends and had sleepovers at each other’s houses. She had such a wonderful ability to make everyone laugh that was around her especially my mom. In high school we would always sit beside each other for group pictures and try not to laugh at something funny she would say right before the picture was taken. But as life happens, we fell out of touch for a lot of years. We did reconnect a few years ago at one of our class reunions. It was like time had stood still and we were those same silly high school girls. What a blessing that I got to be one of her friends! She was one of a kind and the very best. My heart hurts that she is gone now but I know she’s laughing with friends and family in heaven. Mary Ellen you are gone, but you gave me such wonderful memories that I will always cherish. My thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Karen McNulty - June 20, 2025 at 11:28 AM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.



June 20, 2025 at 09:45 AM



“ City of Charleston Development Services purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.



City of Charleston Development Services - June 20, 2025 at 06:16 AM

CS

“ City of Charleston Development Services planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.

City of Charleston Development Services - June 20, 2025 at 06:16 AM

DB

“ I met Mary Ellen at the 1967 Collins High School class reunions. Always looked forward to seeing her and enjoyed her wonderful personality. My husband David Barnhart introduced me to her. We had good memories good times visiting with her. Loved those class reunions. When I think of her I will remember her in the "Birds of Paradise" a skit in a high school talent show. So funny so great. Rest in Peace dear classmate. Thoughts and prayers. I will always think of you with a smile. Debbie Massie Barnhart

Debbie Massie Barnhart - June 20, 2025 at 01:26 AM

TM

“ I remember vividly Mary Ellen bouncing around in her cheerleading uniform full of energy and enthusiasm, but mostly full of spirit and love, always with a smile and a kind word. What a pleasure to be around in high school; one of those memorable personalities that bring a smile to your face at the mention of her name. I will miss her.

terry mcKinney - June 19, 2025 at 07:37 PM

LF

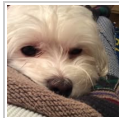
“ I’m so sorry to hear about Mary Ellen. I was another high school classmate and friend. After high school, a number of us from Oak Hill moved to Charleston. I later became a roommate with Mary Ellen and Mary. It is then that I truly got to know and love Mary Ellen. She always could get me to laugh and brought us so much joy and life to our little apartment. I admired her personality and friendliness to all. I seldom saw her after those days as I later moved out of state. It was many years later at a class reunion that I told her how much I admired her ability to bring people together and her lovely personality. Prayers to all of you. I am saddened to hear this. Another Angel.

Lillian Crone Frazer - June 19, 2025 at 07:33 PM

SR

I’m so sorry to hear about Mary Ellen. I’m her cousin. Uncle Paul and my dad Roy were brothers. She was always such a “hoot. Always kept everyone laughing. We will all miss her. Sending love to all of her family and friends.

Sandra Radford - June 19, 2025 at 08:22 PM



Mary Ellen was a cousin I had lost where she lived in charleston vv she will be membered,for her great personally and love for family and friends, her father was my uncle paul and was my mother Melba,s brother.

jack grimes
palm coast fl

Jackb Quick - June 21, 2025 at 07:42 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.*



June 19, 2025 at 07:22 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.

June 19, 2025 at 07:22 PM



“ *So sorry to find out this evening that dear Mary Ellen (or Hairy Melon as I sometimes called her) has passed. We were friends from our high school days at Collins High School in Oak Hill. Then we shared an apartment in Charleston with another Mary from high school. There were three of us Marys in a tiny apartment, but that's all three young women just out of school could afford. Such good times we had. She was absolutely the funniest person in our class. I can still see her in her little black and white Chevy Corvaire zooming through town and there was no mistaking who it was as you could hear her coming down the street. To Beth, Kelly and Ben, we send you our condolences and love. I know how much she will be missed. Your mama was a bright light in a sometimes dark world. As far as I know, there wasn't anyone who didn't consider her a friend. Heaven surely has a funny little angel now. Love you all.*

Zan and Mary Alice Sneed

Zan and Mary Alice Sneed - June 19, 2025 at 07:04 PM

FS

“ From The Rick Schoens purchased the Medium Dish Garden for the family of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.



From The Rick Schoens - June 19, 2025 at 06:10 PM

FS

“ From The Rick Schoens planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.

From The Rick Schoens - June 19, 2025 at 06:10 PM

LM

“ Always had a smile when she brought up a rent payment for WV Property Solutions. Most of the time had Dolly in the back seat for her ride. Shared stories about Prince (my dog) and how they both liked their rides.

Several times brought up one of her homemade soups. My favorite was her potato soup.

Will really miss her.

LLOYD MCMULLEN - June 19, 2025 at 05:55 PM

TL

“ Teresa and Lloyd purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.



Teresa and Lloyd - June 19, 2025 at 05:35 PM

TL

“ Teresa and Lloyd planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.

Teresa and Lloyd - June 19, 2025 at 05:35 PM

EP

“ So many fond memories of Mary Ellen. Her jokes were the stuff legends are made of. This one is one of my favorites...I'd say it's the one I quote most. I actually told it to a group of ladies on Tuesday. It's even funnier now that it's (sadly) true.

“You know, I used to be a 36C...now I'm a 40 long.” 😂

I will never forget her. Hugs to her sweet family. You were her greatest joy.

Erin Petry - June 19, 2025 at 05:28 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.



June 19, 2025 at 04:52 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.

June 19, 2025 at 04:52 PM

GB

“ Gerald Bragg purchased the *Basket Full of Wishes* for the family of *Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes*.



Gerald Bragg - June 19, 2025 at 04:05 PM

GB

“ Gerald Bragg planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of *Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes*.

Gerald Bragg - June 19, 2025 at 04:05 PM

WF

“ *Withrow Family* purchased the *Full Of Love Bouquet* for the family of *Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes*.



Withrow Family - June 19, 2025 at 03:41 PM

AL

“ *Ann Lively* purchased the *Joyful Memory* for the family of *Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes*.



Ann Lively - June 19, 2025 at 03:23 PM

CM

“ She was a wonderful friend to myself and my family! We go way back. We lived down the street and our children grew up together. I remember once I was at a baby shower, and I was sitting next to Mary Ellen, everything she said was a hoot (almost peed my pants) 😂. Just naturally funny. She was a great secretary for Highlawn Elementary. God has a special angel with him now❤️☐

claudia McDonald - June 19, 2025 at 03:20 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.



June 19, 2025 at 02:04 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes.

June 19, 2025 at 02:04 PM

ME

“ Mary Ellen was such a sweet lady, she and Ben helped Mike, and I find our home after many, many showings. I also attended my first white elephant Christmas party at her home; it was so much fun and a memory I will always cherish.

Missy Eskew

Melissa Eskew - June 19, 2025 at 01:58 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of *Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes*.



June 19, 2025 at 01:56 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of *Mary Ellen (Sneed) Adkins-Hughes*.

June 19, 2025 at 01:56 PM