



Martha "Marty" Gates

March 28, 2010

Gates (Nee), Martha Jane "Marty" Was welcomed into Heaven by adoring husband, Jerome E. Gates on March 25, 2010. Her bright light and passion for life will be deeply missed by her loving children, Mary (Tim) Jones, Elizabeth, Patrick (Jackie); and her grandchildren, Ramon, Megan, Lucas, Daniel, Samuel, Rachel, Matthew; as well as many relatives and countless friends. Marty loved life and lived it to the fullest. She accomplished more than most and touched many lives throughout her 80 years. Marty was a lifelong activist and crusader for social justice. She believed that one person could affect change, and she set out each day to do just that. She fought tirelessly to provide all people with a sense of pride, community and belonging. Whether it was challenging the bias of the city and church to establish a teen center in the 1950's or creating a base from which people of all walks of life could gather to work together through the challenges of hunger, poverty and homelessness by establishing centers such as the Social Action Center (Parish Community of St. Joseph) and PRISM (People Responding in Social Ministry). Through out the 1990's she coordinated The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) for the state of Minnesota which distributed federal food surplus to those in need across Minnesota. She served on many boards and committees throughout her lifetime - U Care, Common Bond, Human Services Committees, Senior Federation, Mature Voices, just to name a few. Marty believed that it is in giving that one truly receives and she "walked the walk" for 80 years. In lieu of flowers, give a memorial in her name

to your community food bank or charity. Please join the family in a celebration of a life well lived on Friday, April 2, 2010 at 3 PM, with visitation beginning at 2 PM at: Washburn-McReavy Glen Haven Chapel 763-533-8643 5125 W. Broadway, Crystal

Tribute Wall



“ I only had the privilege of one day's acquaintance with Martha Nee Gates, and I was hoping to go back for another visit. I was crushed when I learned in the summer that she had died last spring, and only now have I found this tribute page. She contributed wonderful ideas and facts for my project to write something about her brother Tom Nee, who was about ten years older than she, and who died July 7, 2008. Tom and Martha each had wonderful senses of fairness AND of humor. What a great combination. I knew how hard Tom worked, with his two orchestras, a teaching job and staying in touch with countless musicians and artists and writers. And I'm now learning how much hard work Marty did as well. What a loss, for my selfish reasons, and for the whole world. I have just made a donation to Feeding America, because I remember her talking about being active in food banks, and that led me to google her and discover this wonderful tribute page. I met her briefly years ago at the NH Music Festival, which Tom directed for 30 plus years, and I took a picture of her and Tom and the principal horn player in the orchestra; Tom said, "Here are 3 horn players!" (Marty, David and himself). When I met with her more recently, and had time to converse with her, before her move to the retirement home, she said she had lots of information about their parents and family that she'd love to show me, but it was all packed away for the move. I live near Philadelphia, and didn't get back to the Twin Cities soon enough to visit her after her move. I don't have a digital version of the 1980's picture, but I have a couple I will try to post here, of Marty and parts of her extended family at Tom's memorial concert near San Diego in October 2008. If anyone has stories about Patrick and Ruby Nee, or Tom, or Marty as Tom's sister, I would love to receive them! My sympathy goes out to all of you, losing such great people. Marian Archibald marianarch @ earthlink.net (no spaces, really) 215-393-8417 p.s. one picture is of Tom's niece Nicole Nee and his sister Martha (Marty) Nee Gates; the other is of many of his extended family, including Marty. I hope I'll be able to post them! They were both taken October 10, 2008 at Tom's memorial concert.

Contact Me

December 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *Second photo from Marian has Marty Nee Gates in the middle of her brother Tom Nee's and her extended family at UC San Diego, Oct. 10, 2008 after memorial concert for Tom*

~

Marian Archibald,

Lansdale, Pennsylvania

Contact Me

Marian Archibald - December 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ God bless you, Mary, Liz and Patrick. Joanie, Judy, Mary and I missed your Mom at the annual CLC lunch today. I was shocked to hear of Marty's passing in March. I was so glad I found your Mom after last years luncheon when I visited her at St. T.'s. Your Mom gave all of us 'kids' encouragement, vision, unconditional love and acceptance. She was a friend to all and helper to those in need. She will enjoy her heavenly reward. God bless and love, Pat Dingels

August 11, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ I just found out about Marty's passing yesterday. I will never forget how she taught me that to "give back" was a privilege. I was honored to know her. I hadn't see her in along time but will never forget her beauty to make everyone feel important in God's eyes. Sandy Patterson, Plymouth

[Contact Me](#)

June 14, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Mary, Liz, and Patrick,I had no idea that your mom had walked on and joined your dad in heaven. I'm sorry I missed her celebration of life. Your parents were my son's god parents. I live across Hwy 81 from your family home. Know that your mom is an activist in heaven. She was one feisty lady and will be missed. Valerie Thompson Sheehan Larsen

May 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ .

April 04, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *I have wonderful memories of my cousin, Martha Jane. I can remember her when I was a child coming to visit us in Alton IL. She was closer in age to my brother Keith and sister Georgia, but it was always fun when Uncle PJ, Aunt Ruby and Martha Jane (as we knew her) were there. Our sympathy goes out to her children and grandchildren. Our love and prayers are with you.*

~

Harvey & Nancy Bacus,

Amman, Jordan

Harvey & Nancy Bacus - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ I have fond memories of working with Marty at St. Joe's and later at PRISM in the 1980s. She was such an inspiration then and continued to be so since. It was always fun to campaign in her neighborhood. Everyone knew her and spoke so highly of her. Having a lawn sign in her front yard really meant something! She was a great lady.

~

Sen. Ann H. Rest,

New Hope, Minnesota

Sen. Ann H. Rest - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MM

“Marty, you made for many of us the world a better place. There is a hole in all of our spaces without your physical presence. The domino effect you had on people goes out to thousands. I always valued your support and confidence you had in me. my life would not be what it is today had it not been for you. Much love to all of the Gates family. Most of us can't say we had "nobility" in our presence.
Marianne M.

~

marianne merriman,

minneapolis, Minnesota

marianne merriman - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ *Marty lived Christ's message of love through out her life. We were truly blessed to have her in our world.* ”

~

Mary Claire Remington,

Eden Prairie, Minnesota

Mary Claire Remington - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

EM

“Liz, I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family.

~

Esther Joy Maruani,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Esther Joy Maruani - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

EM

“ Liz, I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family.

~

Esther & Leo Maruani,

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Esther & Leo Maruani - April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ Marty Gates was such a caring person. She was an advocate for many causes, not least of which was her work promoting quality of life for seniors. I remember working with her in passage of the living will legislation for Minnesota. She will be missed. What a life well lived!!!Former senator Ember Reichgott Junge (New Hope)

April 02, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SB

“ I remember passing thru Albert Lea on the way to a summer job with a friend. Aunt Ruby opened her home to us, feed us and had nearby relatives come over for dinner. Marty was a fun person and always ready to laugh, I can give her no more finer compliment than to say she reminded me so much of Dear Aunt Ruby. We send our condolences and heart felt sympathy to family and friends. Much love, Steven and Marty Bacus

~

Steven & Marty Bacus,

Coulterville, California

Contact Me

Steven & Marty Bacus - April 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *Marty was a dear cousin and friend. From an early age she was an inspiration to me for social justice, something I'll hold dear all of my life. She was also great fun to be around and parties at her house were always something to look forward to. I'll carry her laugh and smile with me wherever I go.*

~

Don St. Dennis,

Shoreview, Minnesota

Don St. Dennis - April 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *Dear Jackie and Pat, I have heard about Marty and her tireless work for social justice through Jackie. Please accept my condolences for your loss. Padma*

~

Padma C,

St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Padma C - April 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MB

“ Although it's not my final interaction with cousin Marty, one of the last times I spent a fabulous evening with her and family was shortly before Professor Jerry, her husband, was killed in a highway accident. They were down here in Alton, IL for a visit with her Bacus family roots. We were gathered at my mom and dad's house (Keith and Lisa Bacus) on Milton Rd. and I distinctly remember how engaged Marty was by a recording of a guitarist friend of mine. Her eyes would widen and she'd say (in that husky voice) "Now how is it possible for anyone to play like that? Amazing!" She asked dozens of questions about the artist, the guitar, etc. Then I realized that there was a lunar eclipse scheduled so we all threw on our coats and "re-convened" in the cold, still, dark backyard of mom and dad's. I can still hear Marty's hushed voice, saying "have you ever, EVER seen such a crimson moon?" I think I learned something special and intimate about love, life, and how to live in the moment when I witnessed her reach back and pull her husband's arms forward, wrapping them around her for warmth as, together, they stared at that lunar eclipse and whispered things to one another and traded smiles. I am very happy for them that they are back together again. But I'll miss Marty. She was a rare one.

~

Mark Bacus,

Alton, Illinois

Contact Me

Mark Bacus - April 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

IE

“ I never had the privilege of knowing Marty, but through working at the University of Minnesota with her daughter, Liz, I now understand where some of Liz' wonderful personal qualities come from. Liz - please accept my condolences on the loss of your mother.

~

Irene Elkins,

St. Louis Park, Minnesota

Irene Elkins - April 01, 2010 at 12:00 AM

LV

“ *Marty made me smile. I will miss her common sense, her sense of humor, and her tenacious drive for righting the wrongs in our world.* ”

~

Lynn VanDervort,

Cleveland, Minnesota

Lynn VanDervort - March 31, 2010 at 12:00 AM

AB

“ We have lost a dear friend and loved one. She was a bright star and loved by everyone who knew her. I always enjoyed her visits. I know she will be greatly missed. My condolences to Liz, Mary, and Patrick and to your children. Love Alice Ann

~

Alice Bacus,

Alton, Illinois

Alice Bacus - March 31, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ I cannot tell you how important Marty was in the development of my own ministry. Her wonderful sense of hospitality, her ability to challenge the "powers that be", her untiring good humor, her love for and trust in the goodness of people were all deeply inspiring to me. Though our paths haven't crossed much in these last years, she will always be an important influence on the work that I do. May the angels lead her into paradise. Fr. Jan Michael Joncas

~

Jan Michael Joncas,

Saint Paul, Minnesota

Jan Michael Joncas - March 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JL

“ I was one of the lucky people that got to work with Marty, what a treasure she was!! Her ability to see Christ in everyone was what I remember most about her, she taught me every moment I spent with her! My prayers are with her children and grandchildren, she will leave a great void with her passing, but you must have grand memories, I know I do! I hope heaven is ready she will be organizing something I'm sure! Dear Marty enjoy flying with the Angels, I know we will meet again! Joy Leininger Buffalo MN.

~

Joy Leininger,

Buffalo, Minnesota

Contact Me

Joy Leininger - March 30, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BK

“ *Marty was a friend and inspiration to us all. Not many like her! We will miss her energy and inspiration.* ”

~

Barbara Kaufman,

Plymouth, Minnesota

Contact Me

Barbara Kaufman - March 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TM

“ *Marty was a wonderful woman and I enjoyed knowing and working with her at the Minnesota Senior Federation.*

~

Tom McGrath,

Silver Spring, Maryland

Contact Me

Tom McGrath - March 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ I spent one lovely weekend with Marty many years ago, she made a life altering impression upon me. What a tremendous loss~my love and heartfelt sympathies to all of her family.

~

Roxanne Galatas-Lord,

Louisville, Kentucky

Contact Me

Roxanne Galatas-Lord - March 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PJ

“ WE ARE SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS OF A WONDERFUL MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER. OUR PRAYERS AND THOUGHTS ARE WITH ALL OF YOU. MAY GOD BLESS YOU ESPECIALLY AT THIS TIME. WE LOVE YOU, YOUR ALICE NORA LANE FAMILY

~

PEGGY JONES,

HOT SPRINGS, Arkansas

PEGGY JONES - March 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ 80 years was not enough Marty. We will miss you so much. Not only for what you gave to so many, but the joy you brought to it all. Beth Becker, Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation

March 29, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Mary, Elizabeth and Pat, My deepest condolences on your loss. Marty was a great lady and an inspiration to us all. Dave Reimer, Ft. Myers, FL*

March 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *Marty was an amazing light for Christ and a testimony of God's grace. She played such a large part in our lives when we were children, as my Mom struggled to raise 5 kids on her own. Marty was there for us in every way possible. She has been a blessing to everyone that has been lucky enough to know her. Our thoughts, love and prayers are with the entire Gates family.*

~

Stephen Merriman,

Maple Grove, Minnesota

Stephen Merriman - March 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

CC

“ On behalf of the staff at Courage Center, please accept our condolences on the loss of Marty. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult time.

~

Courage Center,

Minnesota

Contact Me

Courage Center - March 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

JF

“ *Marty had many accomplishments that can be measured in our society, but her true accomplishment was her never ending love for her fellow man...which may have been at the heart of all her other accomplishments. She truly loved everyone and took that extra step to make lives better...You hold a special spot in my heart...you were a GOOD FRIEND and I MISS YOU!*

~

Janell Felker,

Crystal, Minnesota

Contact Me

Janell Felker - March 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MT

“Marty was one of the best people I ever had the pleasure to know. Smart, kind, funny, compassionate, and that little gleam in her eye that sometimes got brighter with her passionate nature. Marty, you will be missed!

~

Mary Tillemans,

Crystal, Minnesota

Contact Me

Mary Tillemans - March 28, 2010 at 12:00 AM