

Mary Frye

June 22, 1925 – January 20, 2024

Mary L. Rulifson Frye, 98, was born on June 22, 1925, in Fergus Falls, MN, to Lyle Rulifson and Elsie Whitson Rulifson and passed away in Stillwater, OK, on January 20, 2024. Mary attended Hamline University in St. Paul, MN, from which she graduated with a double major in psychology and physical education. Following graduation, she moved to Portland, OR, and taught physical education in Roseburg, OR. After two years, she moved to Gallup, NM, where she taught both psychology and physical education. After two years, she accepted a teaching position at the University of Nevada, Reno. It was here that she met her future husband, E. Moses Frye, who was an Army officer teaching ROTC. They were married August 15, 1952, in Portland, OR. After living in Reno a few months, they moved to Oklahoma so Moses could attend law school in Oklahoma City. It was here their three daughters were born: Beth, Camille, and Renee. After Moses finished law school in 1962, he accepted the position of legal counsel for Oklahoma State University. When her daughters were old enough to become involved in Girl Scouts, Mary and Moses also became involved in scouting and created the Stillwater Girls, Inc. When her youngest daughter started school, Mary accepted a position at Colvin Recreational Center at OSU where she worked until her retirement in 1988. During her time at OSU, she also earned a MS in psychology and a doctorate in Education. In addition to teaching, Mary was substantially involved in several OSU activities, including serving on a task force charged with re-designing the Academic Appeals process; and she subsequently chaired the Academic Appeals Board for several years. In addition, she was one of OSU's representatives at the National Council on Activation of Title IX for Women's Athletics. Mary also served on an ad hoc committee that was charged with studying retirement options for OSU retirees, which ultimately resulted in the building of Legacy Village in North Stillwater. She was also instrumental in establishing the Osher Lifelong Living Institute (OLLI) at OSU. Furthermore, she was involved in the creation of the OSU Emeriti Association, of which she served as chair in 1993-1994. Among her honors was her induction into the College of Education Hall of Fame, the Thanks Badge I and Thanks Badge II from the Magic Empire Council of Girl Scouts and the Pillar Award from the Stillwater Museum Association. In addition, she served in leadership positions in the Magic Empire Council of Girl Scouts, Board of Trustees of Hamline University, First Presbyterian Church. She and others made a Cuban Mission Trip in 1994 when they took suitcases of clothing, personal hygiene items, Bibles, etc. to Cuba. She and Moses were avid travelers, and Mary visited all 50 states. Mary was preceded in death by her husband, Moses, her parents, Lyle and Elsie Rulifson, and her brothers, Robert (Bob) Rulifson and Donald Rulifson. She is survived by her three daughters, Lynette Chapman, Katy, TX; Camille DeYong, Stillwater, OK; and Renee Ongaro (Paolo) of Trophy Club, TX. She is also survived by seven grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and three bonus great-granddaughters.