



# **Mrs. Mary Ludie Maness Steele**

JAN 19, 1919 - SEP 12, 2015



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## **Mrs. Mary Ludie Maness Steele**

JAN 19, 1919 - SEP 12, 2015

**M**ary Ludie Maness was born at home on January 19, 1919 to Sallie and Amos Maness of Henderson County, TN. Ludie spent a happy childhood in Jackson, moving to the family farm near Medina in her teens, during the years of the Great Depression. Ludie was a good student and graduated from Medina High School in 1938.

In 1941 Ludie met James Vernon Steele. James has always felt that Ludie was created by God for him. They married on March 16, 1943, in Corinth, Mississippi, when James was on leave from the Army. Their marriage was witnessed by their sisters, Katherine Steele and Ruth Maness. Ludie embraced her husband's large, affectionate family and loved each and every one of them, just as she loved her own parents, her brother and sister, her nieces and nephews.

The mid-40's were turbulent years for Ludie. Her father was terminally ill and her beloved husband was in Europe, participating in some of the epic battles of WWII, including the invasion of Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge at Bastogne. Ludie worked at the Milan Arsenal, doing her part for the war effort, and wrote letters daily to her sweetheart. She bundled the letters she received from him, tied them with satin ribbons and kept them all her life.

Ludie and James had two daughters, Jeanette (Janie), born in 1946, and Susan, born in 1952. They lived in Medina from 1948-1955 where they were members of the Medina Methodist Church. Ludie worked at the telephone company, an old fashioned "number, please" telephone operator. In 1954 she was crowned Mrs. Medina in a local beauty revue.

In 1955 the Steeles moved to Humboldt. Ludie happily worked full-time as a homemaker. She sewed clothes for her girls and herself and was active in the First Methodist Church. Ludie was a mom who always found time to drive a carload of girls home from the movies, to share her kitchen with teenagers making pizzas, to



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welcome a girl or two or three for an overnight, or a college friend for a holiday. For three years she cared for her mother, who was bedridden, until the time of Mrs. Maness' death.

When Janie and Susan were grown, Ludie and James moved to Nashville and became members of Inglewood United Methodist Church where they made many friends. They also spent much time with their life-long friends, E.C. and Katholeen Ray, of White House, and their family.

The Nashville years brought Ludie time with two grandchildren, J.J. Blair and Patrick Gulley. Ludie was genuinely interested in children and teenagers, listening respectfully to their ideas, opinions and problems. She loved her grandchildren, as she had their mothers, with unreserved enthusiasm. They responded in kind. J.J.'s four children, Briana, Dylan, Blair and James Gibbs and Patrick's daughter, Lola Gulley, were the shining stars of Ludie's later years. Ludie died at home on September 12, 2015.

Ludie enjoyed sewing, gardening, reading, baking, quilting and following the Lady Vols basketball team. And mostly she enjoyed spending time with family and friends. James describes Ludie as a "kind, sweet, loving, Christian wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and a friend to all who really knew her."

Ludie had a favorite saying: "What the heart loves, it keeps, and all is well, if not the same." We will keep Ludie in our hearts, remembering her kindness, her laughter and her unconditional love.

"Precious memories, how they linger somewhere in our souls." James says, with a kiss blown toward heaven, "Good-bye, sweetheart. I'll see you later."

The family will receive friends from 4-8 P.M. Wed. Sept. 16th and from 11 -1 P.M. Thurs. Sept. 17th at Spring Hill Funeral Home. A celebration of life funeral service will be held at 1 P.M. Thursday, Sept. 17, 2015 at Spring Hill Funeral Home with Reverend Jack Keller officiating. Interment will follow in Historic Spring Hill Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Inglewood United Methodist Church 3511 Gallatin Pike, Nashville TN 37216.



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Arrangement entrusted to Spring Hill Funeral Home and Cemetery 5110 Gallatin Pike, Nashville TN 37216. 615-865-1101. [www.springhillfh.com](http://www.springhillfh.com)






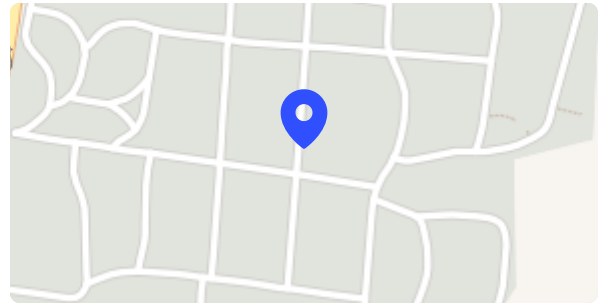
# Events

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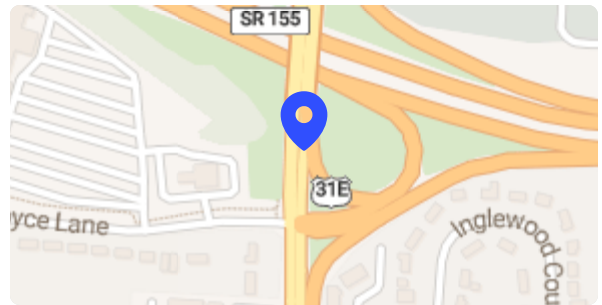
## Visitation

-  **Wednesday**, September 16, 2015
-  4:00 PM - 8:00 PM CT
-  **Spring Hill Funeral Home**  
5110 Gallatin Pike S, Nashville TN 37216



## Cemetery Details

-  **Historic Spring Hill Cemetery**  
5110 Gallatin Road, Nashville TN 37216





## Tribute Wall

**Mrs. Mary Ludie Maness Steele**

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**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Steele family.



September 16 at 6:20 PM



**Debbie Barnett** lit a candle in honor of Mary.



September 16 at 3:43 PM



**Debbie Barnett** posted:

I met Ludie (and James) through my husband, Jerry, as he is their nephew. I immediately fell in love with both of them. They always loved me as a part of their family. I have many fond memories of Thanksgiving visits to Nashville and other visits through the years. Jerry has also shared many memories of his childhood spent with Ludie and James and Janie and Susan. I have also enjoyed getting to know Janie and Susan and their families. We love you all and are praying for you. Heaven has gained a sweet and beautiful angel. Love, Jerry and Debbie Barnett

September 16 at 3:40 PM



**Barney Barnett** posted:

I will miss my Aunt Ludie. My favorite time of the year was going to see her and Uncle James during Thanksgiving. I wish I had visited her more. Me being the "baby" she spoiled me rotten just like Mama and Mamasallie. I know Uncle James, Janie and Susan will be lost, but God will mend their souls and give comfort.----- Ice Milk at Aunt Ludie's! You are going to get sick Barney. Loved her so much. Prayers!

September 16 at 2:05 PM



**Dick And Marcia Karg** posted:

Susan, Patrick, and Lolla, We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your dear Mother, Grandmother, and Great Grandmother. Although I only met her once, she was such a dear. I am saddened that we cannot make it to visitation. You are in our prayers. Prayers for peace to you and yours. Love, Dick and Marcia Karg

September 16 at 1:12 PM



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AH

**Anita S. Hassell** posted:

Today we find ourselves on a long walk down memory lane, remembering all the happy times with Ludie and James, their family, and our large extended family. We felt the warmth and love on every visit in their home. There will never be more gracious hosts. Back in the early 50's when TV sets were just out, Ludie and J.V were the first in our family to have one. We proved two things at once: we loved being together and they were fabulous hosts. There were many other wonderful times of laughter and fun. Those are memories that will live on forever as we share our stories with our children, grandchildren and extended family. Nita

September 16 at 10:44 AM

FY

**Flynn G York** sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Steele family.



September 16 at 9:58 AM

JF

**Jeanne Fleischer** posted:

Janie and Susan:Ludie was always one of my favorite moms. She always had a smile for us and those bright eyes and her laughter let us know she thought your teenage friends were a hoot.I can still hear her laughter even after all these years. She was special.Sending my love to you, your dad and Susan and your families. Jeanne Allen Fleischer

September 16 at 8:49 AM

LF

**Love, Kenny And Susan Miller & Family** sent a Country Basket Blooms to the Steele family.



September 16 at 8:04 AM

TD

**The Ladies Of Oral Health, Metro Health Department** sent a Fruits and Blooms Basket to the Steele family.



September 16 at 6:52 AM



## Tribute Wall

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BR

**Betty Simmons Robison** posted:

Janie, I was sorry to learn of your loss. Good mothers are special people and are always missed when they leave our midst. I am glad that you had her for such a long time, and I am sure you have some good memories which will become sweeter in the days ahead and will help you as you heal. Be sure and give your dad lots of hugs because she will miss hers. You are in my thoughts. Lovingly,  
Betty Simmons Robison

September 15 at 6:41 PM

WD

**We Love You All. Martha, Nita And Dwight** sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Steele family.



September 15 at 1:57 PM

ES

**Ed & Suzuko** sent a Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet to the Steele family.



September 15 at 12:00 PM

JB

**James B.** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Steele family.



September 15 at 9:04 AM

PJ

**Philip And Beth Julian** lit a candle in honor of Mary.

I was first introduced to Ludie through my sister. Her husband, Jerry, was her nephew. I claimed her early on as my Aunt Ludie through the many stories from my sister. Then my husband, Philip, lived in apartments just about 2 miles from their house when he was in Anesthesia School. We would visit and even have a meal or 2. I came to love her and James dearly and have for over 20 years. Debbie and I even got to visit their daughter Janie, in WA, for a week. Susan would often drop by when we were visiting her parents. I cherish every memory I have and now sending love and prayers to James and the family at this difficult time. I love each and everyone of you as if you are my family. May God comfort each one of you as only He can and bring you peace.



September 15 at 8:44 AM



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**Rebecca Simmons** posted:

my dear Aunt Ludie was one of the most precious women I have ever known. She always made us feel welcome in their home..and she made the best baked beans ever. She will be truly missed by all who knew her and loved her.

September 15 at 7:36 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Sweet Solace Spray to the Steele family.



September 15 at 7:04 AM



**Jeana Stallons** posted:

One of the highlights of my trips to Nashville to see my boys, who live across the street from Ludie, where my visits with Ludie and James. They both were always so happy to see us and they shared wonderful stories of life. I have so much respect for her. She always had a magic twinkle in her eyes. I know she is with the Lord now and has no more pain. God bless you family as you say goodbye to her on this side of life, but not forever as you will see her again one day. In loving memory, Jeana Stallons

September 15 at 6:15 AM



**J R Gray** September 15 at 5:17 PM

So sorry Janie and Susan for this loss...Wonderful lady...



**Vangie Ethridge** posted:

Aunt Ludie was such a sweet, caring lady. She wasn't related by blood, but she was by love. She was visiting my grandparents once years ago while I was there. I had curlers in my hair and was at my awkward pre-teen stage. I remember her telling me that I was beautiful even with my hair in curlers. I remember that some 40 years later, because coming from Aunt Ludie it was all the more special. She sure had a way of making you know she loved you. I have so many fond memories of Aunt Ludie, J. J., myself and my grandmother. We probably got by with a lot more than we should have but have great memories because of it. Aunt Ludie will be missed! Love to you all. Vangie

September 15 at 6:07 AM



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TL

**Toni Lieberman** posted:

We were so sorry to learn of Ludie's passing . . our hearts are heavy for the grief you must be feeling at this time. Please know that you are in our prayers, and that Ludie's spirit will live on in the hearts and the memories of everyone she touched throughout her long life. There is a bit of Ludie in each of you, that you will pass along to everyone you are close to, and through that, Ludie will live, though she is at rest. With love, Toni and Harry Lieberman

September 15 at 4:39 AM

BB

**Bill And Nina Beth** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Steele family.



September 15 at 2:52 AM

PB

**Peggy And Ray Butler** sent a Gracious Lavender Basket to the Steele family.



September 14 at 5:07 PM

JA

**Jessica Alsobrook** posted:

Susan, I always remember your mom's smile. She was always smiling and so pleasant, with a real calm sense of self. Gentle.

September 14 at 4:24 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Mary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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