



## Mary Gerber Swope

August 7, 1935 - June 15, 2023

Mary Gerber Swope, age 87, of Zanesville, OH passed peacefully on June 15, 2023.

Mary was born on August 7, 1935 in Parkersburg, West Virginia to Clarence and Marie (Foust) Gerber, sister to Clarence Jr and Martha. A 1953 graduate of St. Marys high school, Mary attended the University of Maryland where she was an active member of Kappa Delta sorority. Mary earned a graduate degree in Physical Therapy from the School of Health and Rehabilitation, University of Pittsburgh. While there, Mary worked with Dr. Jonas Salk prior to development of the Polio vaccine and spent many of her adult years advocating for its eradication.

Mary began her 31 year career in Zanesville at Good Samaritan Medical Center as a Physical Therapist. In addition to serving as Vice President of Good Samaritan's Rehabilitation Center, Mary was instrumental in the formation and development of American Health Resources, began the American Health Resource Medical Supply Company and her consulting firm, establishing leadership in the development and management of freestanding rehabilitation hospitals and hospital-based programs. Mary was involved with hospital accreditation with Joint Commission certification and appointed by Governor Dewine as an Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commissioner for 19 terms. Mary has served as past President of the national Commission for

Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) and the national Rehabilitation section of American Hospital Association. She was the first woman to be honored by the American Hospital Association with the Brent England Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation Management for significant contributions to the delivery of medical services to people with disabilities.

Active in Zanesville through All Around Club, Assembly Club, Garden Club, Central Presbyterian Church, Zanesville Country Club, the Masterpiece group of Zanesville Art Center, Board of Trustees for Zanesville Day Nursery and was a Paul Harris fellow of the Zanesville Daybreak Rotary Club where she continued her Polio vaccine campaign for 27 years.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Marie (Foust) Gerber, her brother Clarence Gerber, Jr and husband of 57 years Robert J. Swope. She will be missed by daughter, Erin Swope Votaw and husband Trent Votaw of Greensboro, NC; Grandsons Lucas Kendall Votaw and Benjamin Russell Votaw of Greensboro, NC; sister, Martha Guinn, nephews Dr. Jay, Dr. Richard Gerber, Paul Cranston and niece Jill Rice of WV along with extended loving family.

A memorial service and celebration of her life will be held at a later date. Donations may be made in her name to the Zanesville Animal Shelter Society, 1430 Newark Road, Zanesville, Ohio 43701.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary Gerber Swope*

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October 06, 2023 at 04:22 AM



“ *In 1971, when I was a recent OSU Grad & a brand new Occupational Therapist, Mary took me under her wing & trusted me to found the first Occupational Therapy Department for physical rehabilitation in Southeast Ohio. I highly respected her and we developed an even closer bond, when we discovered we were Kappa Delta Sisters! We worked diligently to earn the CARF Accreditation and educate hospital staff and architects who were designing the the Rehab Unit for Good Samaritan Medical Center. Mary and I took part in Pilot Club Service Club with other professional women, working to improve the world for others. Not too long ago, I saw Mary in Zanesville & we enjoyed a special unexpected reunion. What an amazing pioneer & mentor in the world of Rehabilitation, I was blessed to call my KD Sister and friend. {{HUGS}} My thoughts and prayers to you all. Gail Stamm Requardt, OTR/L*

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**Gail Lash Stamm Requardt** - July 07, 2023 at 07:10 PM

EF

“ Erin, I met your mother while I was still a student at Muskingum in 1975. I did a focus study on rehabilitation. Later, I worked as a transporter in PT, then as an RN on The Rehab Unit. Later I managed the SNF at Good Sam and utilized the Rehab Therapies for my patients. Finally, I was privileged enough to provide care for your dad at home. Long lead in to say your mom was a great leader and developer of care givers. I was treated the same as an entry level employee as I was when I was a manager. Talked to her a few months ago, and again she said, "didn't we have fun?". Great lady to work for and with. She will be missed. You are in my prayers.

Ed Fell - June 26, 2023 at 04:17 PM

SH

“ I have so many wonderful memories of Mary, our many trips to Columbus, all the get togethers with friends.. I will miss her.

Susan Hendley - June 22, 2023 at 07:03 PM

LI

“ Mary was such a blessing to my mother-in-law whom she worked with in the 1960s when she was in her 30s and had a bad stroke. She credited Mary for her recovery. What a special person.

lisa - June 22, 2023 at 05:57 PM

JV

“ John V. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Mary Gerber Swope.



John V. - June 21, 2023 at 04:56 PM

PJ

“ Patricia J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Gerber Swope.

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Patricia J. - June 21, 2023 at 04:31 PM

JK

“ So sorry to hear about Mary. I remember her being head of PT at Good Samaritan Medical Center and her good rapport with Drs and patients that she assisted in their needs and rehabilitation. Mary had a very amazing career and lots of achievements especially in the eradication of polio. May all of your wonderful family memories bring comfort in the days ahead.  
Tom & Joellen Kendrick

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Joellen Kendrick - June 20, 2023 at 01:06 AM



To say that Mary was an overachiever is an understatement of gigantic proportion. to say that Mary was an overachiever is an understatement of gigantic proportion. Zanesville did not know what physical therapy was until Mary arrived in town. she gave me my first job in rehab and as she like to say, suffered the anxiety of my management. She also taught me how to ride a quarter horse and begged me not to try it until my medical insurance kicked in. we kept in touch and often reminisced about the formative years at GSMC.

Frank Aquino

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Frank Aquino - June 20, 2023 at 01:41 PM

WO

“ *Dear Erin and Family:  
We have many good memories of the times we spent with Mary and with Bob.  
May your memories of fond memories help you through this difficult time.  
Your parents were so proud of your horse riding and awards.  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.  
Sincerely,  
Walter & Sarel Offinger*

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**Walter Offinger** - June 18, 2023 at 12:51 PM

JR

“ *I am so sorry to hear of Mary's death. I worked with her at Good Samaritan and admired her work ethic and dedication to her profession.*

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**Judy Rebic** - June 17, 2023 at 09:49 PM