



Myrtle Brooks Stanley

May 13, 1929 - February 6, 2026

It was at Morgan that she met her future husband, Theodore Freeland Stanley, in their chemistry and mathematics classes. Their friendship blossomed into love, and they married in 1949, graduating together two years later. Their union was blessed with three children: Theodora Beatrice, Benjamin, and Jonathan. Together, they instilled in their children the same values of faith, education, and service that had shaped their own lives.

Despite her academic achievements, Myrtle faced barriers to employment as a chemist. With resilience and grace, she embraced a new calling in education, becoming an elementary school teacher during a time of teacher shortages. She went on to serve the Baltimore City Public Schools for 25 years as a teacher, team teacher, senior teacher, and curriculum coordinator—an accomplishment she regarded with great pride. During this time, she earned her Master of Science in Elementary Education from Morgan State University in 1972.

Her spiritual life deepened when she became a member of St. Ann Roman Catholic Church, where she served as pastoral associate, principal of the Elementary School of Religion, secretary of the parish council, and coordinator of the Prayer Group. Her passion for theology led her to earn a Master of Theology from St. Mary's Seminary and University in 1987, and she later completed postgraduate coursework at Fordham University between

1989 and 1991.

In 1984, Myrtle began a new chapter of ministry as Director of the Office of the Propagation of the Faith for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, where she served until 1995. She was the first layperson in the United States appointed to this position, previously held exclusively by priests. In this role, she directed home and foreign missions, the Holy Childhood Association, and Catholic Relief Services—work that fulfilled her childhood dream of serving the missions.

After caring for her husband during his declining health and following his passing on August 6, 2005, Myrtle continued her ministry by coordinating the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) at St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church from 1996 to 1999 and later serving as an instructor for the Church Leadership Institute at the Archdiocese of Baltimore until her retirement.

Myrtle also founded and coordinated The Sisters in the Struggle, an international group of Christian women dedicated to spiritual growth, prayer, Bible study, and strengthening families and communities through Christian living. She remained its coordinator from 1990 onward, guiding countless women in their walk with God.

Myrtle's service extended beyond the church. She served on the boards of Baltimore Clergy and Laity Concerned, Towson Catholic High School, and Good Samaritan Hospital. She authored plays, including "It's Your Own Funeral" and "Miracle on 22nd Street", and remained active in organizations such as the American Association of University Women, the Religious Sisters of Mercy of the Americas, and the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.

Myrtle leaves to cherish her memory her son, Benjamin B. Stanley (Elaine);

sister, Ruth Young; nephew, Gerard Young (Debi); niece, Elizabeth Mack (Andrew); her in death.

Previous Events

Public Viewing

FEB 18. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

March Life Tribute Center, P.A. – Randallstown
5616 Old Court Road
Windsor Mill, MD 21244
(410) 655-0110

Wake

FEB 19. 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church
5401 Loch Raven Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21239

Funeral Mass

FEB 19. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Matthew Roman Catholic Church
5401 Loch Raven Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21239

Tribute Wall

MH

“ Praying peace, love and comfort for Mrs Stanley’s family and friends. ❤️ My condolences She taught me in the fourth, fifth and sixth grade at Guilford Elementary School #214. She helped inspire my love of learning. She was one of the greats!!!

Myra Hill - February 23 at 09:09 AM

GN

“ Gwendolyn N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Myrtle Brooks Stanley.

Gwendolyn N. - February 19 at 06:52 AM



“ Full Heart was purchased for the family of Myrtle Brooks Stanley.



February 18 at 03:22 PM

WJ

“ William and Shanterri Jones purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Myrtle Brooks Stanley.



William and Shanterri Jones - February 18 at 12:47 PM

WJ

“ William and Shanterri Jones planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Myrtle Brooks Stanley.

William and Shanterri Jones - February 18 at 12:47 PM

AT

“ Angel Trillos lit a candle in memory of Myrtle Brooks Stanley



Angel Trillos - February 18 at 02:18 AM

KK

“ To Myrtle's Family.....
Please know that Myrtle still lives on in all the hearts of the people who knew her. I was lucky enough to know her through VSC. Her positive attitude goes along with the saying from the game that she loved to play....."Everyone can be a winner playing with the hand they are dealt" in life. It was an honor to have known her.
Kathy & Dave Knox

Kathy & Dave Knox - February 15 at 04:39 PM

YL

“ Your Vitual Senior Family with Love. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Myrtle Brooks Stanley.



Your Vitual Senior Family with Love. - February 15 at 04:17 PM

“ Ben,

I am so sad to hear of Miss Myrtle's passing. I met her online through Keswick and the Virtual Senior Center. You and I met at Berea Lutheran Church when you used to drive her to my "Move Out of Pain" Clinic that was hosted there before the Covid pandemic.



Myrtle was a very generous and faithful Christian woman. She prayed diligently for me through my surgery and cancer treatment seven years ago, and rejoiced with me as I have remained cancer free for these past several years. She encouraged me in taking care of my little granddaughter, and never failed to smile when I showed her pictures of my family. Her laughter was contagious, as we laughed together over many things in life, both small and large. When I hit other hard times, she never failed to have an encouraging word to lift me up and to remind me that she was praying for me and my family.

Her deep abiding faith and her intimate relationship with Jesus Christ were the foundation of her life, and she never failed to share how much He had done for her and what He could do for those of us who trust Him. Whether grieving over the passing of your brother and your sister, or rejoicing with others over the good things in life, she was a remarkable, steadfast Christian woman who never failed to remind everyone she met how good God is, and how good He had been to her. She was the epitome of gratitude, always expressing thankfulness in knowing Him as well as she did.

I am thankful for her presence in my life, and I will miss her tremendously.

She was a gift to all of us who knew her, and I rejoice in the hope of Our Lord, that in the day of resurrection, I will see her again as her best self in all her glory in His presence for all eternity. I am praying for you and your family as you grieve your loss and celebrate her

remarkable life.

--Stacia Gallagher

Stacia Gallagher - February 13 at 07:20 PM

SS

“ *I am so sorry for the passing of Myrtle. She was such a wonderful lady and a dear friend. May her passing be for a blessing.*

Susan Schwitzer - February 12 at 05:28 PM

MC

“ *We the March Family and Staff wish to extend our deepest and heartfelt sympathy in the passing of your loved one. Our prayers go out to you and your family in your time of loss. We know and understand that you have received many expressions of love, and we will continue to lift you up in prayer. May the memories you cherish of brighter and happier days help to ease your sorrow and comfort you always.*

March Life Tribute Center - February 12 at 03:25 PM