



Mary Dell Robins Talley

September 12, 1928 - January 6, 2026

Mary Dell Robins Talley, lovingly known as Nurse Talley and GiGi, left this world on January 6, 2025. Her final days were spent in the comfort of her home, surrounded by her family and visited by dear friends. When Santa stopped by on Christmas afternoon and asked whether she had been naughty or nice, she replied with a sparkle in her eye, “Trying to be good but sometimes naughty...,” with a twinkle in her eye and a mischievous smile. Born on September 12, 1928, in the Owley community south of Mount Ida, Mary Dell was the daughter of Frank and Mary Ann Bogle Robins and the fifth of six children. Growing up as the only girl among five brothers helped shape her grit, determination, and fearless spirit. After graduating from Mount Ida High School, she moved to Hot Springs to begin what would become a remarkable, story-worthy nursing career. She attended the Levi Hospital School of Nursing, graduating in 1950 from the second-to-last class before the school closed. As the final surviving graduate, her passing gently closes a meaningful chapter in the history of Hot Springs.

In 1963, Mary Dell accepted the role of Public Health Nurse for Montgomery County, a position in which she thrived until her retirement in 1993. When she began, the county—home to more than 7,000 residents—had only one nurse and one clerk. Through her unwavering dedication and tireless work ethic, she expanded public health services and brought vital care to people who had never before had access. She collaborated with local agencies and state officials, always advocating for the well-being of her community. Mary Dell

didn't simply care for patients; she changed lives. Over the decades, she touched thousands. Her story was featured in the April 2021 issue of HER Magazine.

Her sweet tooth was legendary, and few desserts survived long in her presence. Those who rode with her knew well her fondness for testing the limits of any vehicle. Her granddaughters affectionately nicknamed her beloved Volvo wagon "Turbo Grammie," and to Mary Dell, a speedometer was more of a suggestion than a rule. She kept her yard immaculate and was still running her weed-eater daily at age 96. Her Chicken and Dumplings became a family treasure, a recipe now carried on by her great-granddaughter.

Mary Dell was preceded in death by her husband of 39 years, Paul Talley, and by her brothers Earl (Daisy), Carl (Betty Lee), Dale, Mearl (Lorraine), and JI. She is survived by her daughter Paula Jones (David) of Mount Ida; her sons John Talley of Mount Ida and Robert Talley of Hot Springs; her grandchildren Josh Talley (Stephany), Seth Talley (Angela), Samantha Petty (Albert), and Jessica Abernathy (Tom); eleven great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews whom she cherished deeply.

In accordance with her wishes, no services will be held at this time. A private family gathering will be planned for a later date. Honorary pallbearers include the staff of Arkansas Hospice/Life Touch, Janice Vaughn, and JoAnn Mangione—affectionately known by Mary Dell as "JoAnn the Great." In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Arkansas Hospice/Life Touch.

Tribute Wall

SU

“ I didn't know Nurse Talley, but I just wanted say that that was the sweetest write up of her. 🍷 Sounds like she was a wonderful and maybe a tad bit spicy which is a combo I love! Lol Rest in love Miss Mary 🌸

suzi - January 11 at 10:50 PM

SS

“ Sending prayers for all the family of this lovely lady.

sandy sutton - January 07 at 05:07 PM

MR

“ Mary Dell was such a nice lady. I remember when I was young and had to get shots from her, she would say, "Now, you're going to feel a little bite", and she'd poke me. To this day, when I have to get a shot, I hear those words, always in her voice. Rest now Mary Dell, your journey has come to an end. Love and prayers to Paula, John, Robert, and all their families.
Mira Robins

Mira Robins - January 06 at 06:37 PM

JV

“ I so enjoyed taking care of Mary Dell. She was such a joy to be around and I enjoyed her many stories she shared with me. I will greatly miss her. My thoughts and love go out to all her family.



Janice Vaughn - January 06 at 05:29 PM