



## Mary E. (Donaher) Thornton

August 28, 1948 - September 27, 2009

Mary E. (Donaher) Thornton, 61, of Hudson, NH died Sun. Sept. 27, 2009 at St. Joseph hospital in Nashua, NH surrounded by her loving family after a long struggle with cancer.

Mary was born on Aug. 28, 1948 in Worcester, MA daughter of the late John F. and Josephine (Fahey) Donaher and was the loving wife of Robert D. Thornton of Hudson, NH with whom she shared 36 years of marriage.

Mary was a caring, patient and successful teacher. She began teaching kindergarten in Damariscotta, ME, which was followed by six years at St. Joseph's in Salem, NH teaching 2nd grade. For the last twenty years, Mary taught ESL at American Training in Lawrence, MA. She enjoyed the challenges and rewards of preparing her international students with the skills and hopes to achieve their dreams in America.

Mary was a devoted wife, a proud mother and a supportive and nurturing sister and aunt. She treasured her family and cherished their summer vacations on Sebec Lake. She was a loyal and thoughtful friend. As a member of the Alpha Phi chapter at the University of Maine at Orono, she met and remained lifelong friends with a beautiful circle of women.

She enjoyed traveling and reading, afternoon tea, the hits of The Beatles, the

great state of Maine and the laughter of her children. As her nephew Stephen said so perfectly, "If everyone could treat one person, for one minute each day the way Mary treated every person, every day, the world would be a much better place." She will be greatly missed but joyously received by her mother, father and beloved relatives.

Besides her loving husband, Mary is survived by a son Benjamin D. Thornton of Cambridge, MA; a daughter, Amanda E. Thornton of Cambridge, MA; two brothers, Richard Donaher and his wife Judy of Roque Bluffs, ME and Jack Donaher and his wife Jacqueline of Topsfield, MA; a sister, Frances Curcio and her husband Leonard of Maynard, MA; three nephews, Leonard Curcio of Townsend, MA, Stephen Curcio of Sanford, ME and Jacob Ward of Washington D.C.; Four nieces, Christina Murray and Laura Barbella both of Littleton, MA, Amelia Donaher of Las Vegas, NV, Josephine Donaher of Key West, FL; seven great nieces and nephews, Christopher, Nicholas, Emily, Peter John, Connor, Lindsey and Alison and many good friends.

Visiting Hours will be held on Thurs. Oct. 1st from 5-8 pm in the DUMONT-SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME, 50 FERRY ST., HUDSON. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Fri. Oct. 2nd at 11:30am in St. Kathryn's Church, 4 Dracut Rd., Hudson, 03051. All May Meet At Church. Burial will be at a later date.

# Previous Events

## Service

OCT 2. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Kathryn's Church  
4 Dracut Rd.  
Hudson, NH

# Tribute Wall



“ *Mary E. (Donaher) Thornton*

October 06, 2023 at 08:13 AM



“ *Mary E. (Donaher) Thornton*

September 27, 2023 at 04:05 AM



“ *It has been\*  
lol. I know you would want me to correct that.  
Also, Wish we could talk about this Republican presidential field!*

**Ben** - September 27, 2015 at 01:02 AM



“ *Can't believe it's been 6 years, Mom. I miss you. xoxoxo*

**Ben** - September 27, 2015 at 01:00 AM



“ *Happy Mother's Day. I miss you.*

**Ben** - May 10, 2013 at 07:10 AM

BT

“ Three years and I still think of you every day. i have a hard time accepting that you're gone.

*Ben's back in school and getting ready to run his first marathon - the Maine Marathon with Uncle Steve. We have a crew going up to cheer them on.*

*Amanda is in the Big Apple and texted me today that she was headed for a second interview with a good company. If you can pull any strings up there for us it would be appreciated.*

*I love and miss you,*

*Bob*

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**Bob Thornton** - September 27, 2012 at 04:34 PM



“ Dearest Mary,

*It seems like only yesterday that we arrived @ St Joe's on your birthday to surprise you. The idea hatched by your remarkable children.*

*Well, my dear sister, they are still truly remarkable. Amanda had a wonderful 30th party planned by Ben & Bob. Lots of family, old friends & new ones were there. Your name lovingly recalled by all of us who miss you every single day. Its tough on all of us...we still have a difficult time understanding why the heart of our family was taken from us. I often feel your presence so I hope you know how much we miss you & always will.. Love u forever, Fran###imported-begin##Fran Curcio##imported-end##*

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August 28, 2012 at 02:24 PM



“ Happy 64th Bday. Wish you were here to celebrate. Had a wonderful 30th for Amanda that you would had enjoyed. Miss and love you every day.##imported-begin##Bob Thornton##imported-end##

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August 28, 2012 at 07:54 AM



“ Dear Mary,  
Two and a half years yesterday since we lost you, its been a tough few days but then I miss your sisterly goodness everyday. You were one of a best people I ever had in my life and all of those who love you. Always in our hearts, I know you are with us, I can feel your present but we wish we could share our day to day lives with you. Love you forever!##imported-begin##Fran Curcio##imported-end##

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March 28, 2012 at 10:18 PM



“ Mom,  
What I wouldn't give to hug you one last time and hear your laugh. I know you are watching over us all - so many people miss you. I know how happy you are that I'm back in school. I can also just hear your reaction to my question, "Do you like Jim?" And that makes me smile. I think you brought him to me. I'm very happy in life.

Sometimes at night before I fall asleep I'll close my eyes and I will see you and you'll be walking and smiling and free of all the pain that you had to endure and in those moments I know you are safe & at peace. I love seeing you in my dreams too! xoxo

Amanda & I are heading out tonight for a drink and we will be toasting you and remembering all the love we shared.

Loving & Missing you always Mom.##imported-begin##benjamin.thornton##imported-end##

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September 27, 2011 at 06:48 PM



“ Dearest Mary, Today is another very sad day in all our lives. We miss you so much. I will never understand why God took you from us....its not right. You are our angel and I hope that you can look down on us and see all the love we send you everyday. Bob, Ben and Amanda need you so much so I hope you will send down the Holy Spirit to give them the strength they need. You know I will always be there for them as will my children when I leave this Earth to hopefully reunite with you. You are the best sister and friend I could have ever hoped for. You taught me so much about what is important in life. Sometimes I think that you were the "big" sister as I treasured your wisdom.

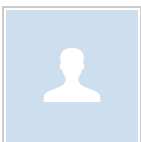
We all know what loss is but the loss of you special girl is too much to bear.

People will say you are no longer in pain - you are not  
People will say you fought a courageous fight - you did  
People will say you are in heaven with all our loved ones - you are  
But the emptiness is so overwhelming. We love you, we miss you and we always will.

A grateful sister, Fran###imported-begin##Fran Curcio###imported-end##

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September 27, 2011 at 01:51 PM



“ Mary, I can't believe it has been two years since I last held your hand and told you how much I loved you. I still see you in so many places and wish that you were still with me. The kids are well and Ben has gone back to grad school (can you believe it) and wants to follow in your footsteps teaching elementary ages. Amanda is climbing the corporate ladder at Cyber-Ark and seems happy with her job although over worked. Sebec Lake is still the most beautiful spot and the work on the camp is just about done. Well that's it for now. I love and miss you dearly. Love Bob###imported-begin##Bob Thornton###imported-end##

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September 27, 2011 at 01:01 PM



“ Dear family, We continue to be in pain everyday. We were so lucky to have this beautiful woman in our lives but it still hurts so much. Please God help us. A grateful sister###imported-begin###Fran###imported-end##

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April 02, 2010 at 03:03 PM



“ Dear Bob, Amanda & Ben,

*I can't believe it has been one month since we lost our beloved Mary. We all miss her so much.*

*We want to see her and hear her voice. The emptiness is sometimes overwhelming. Our hearts will never be the same but I hope someday we will feel her presence. She was the best sister and friend. She knew every generation and she treasured us all. God please get us through these awful days.*

*I miss you so much and always will. You will never know how much we love you.*

*A grateful and devoted sister,  
Fran###imported-begin###FRAN###imported-end##*

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October 27, 2009 at 01:27 PM



“ Amanda & Ben & Mr Thornton,  
Please know you are all in my thoughts and prayers. I have wonderful memories of visiting NH and getting to spend time with your amazing Mom (and wife). I specifically remember thinking what a perfect and loving family Amanda has :)  
I am beyond sorry for your loss but know you are all amazing people and will get through this tough time. i wish i could fly up and squeeze you right now amanda. all of my love to all of you.  
xoox###imported-begin##Jenna Kagdis###imported-end##

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October 07, 2009 at 04:00 PM



“ I couldn't think of a better way to celebrate the life of mother-Mary. It was a beautiful tribute to such an amazing woman and I know she was watching over us the entire time. The mass was exactly what she would have wanted and the reception afterwards with wine glasses filled with Bud heavy are classic Mary ways. The Taylors will never forget their god-mother, friend, and mimi. Love to the Thorntons and all who knew her.###imported-begin##Steve Taylor###imported-end##

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October 07, 2009 at 08:11 AM



“ Bob,  
I am so sorry for your loss. Mary was my favorite patient. I really enjoyed talking to her and always looked forward to seeing her. She truly touched my heart.  
My deepest condolences,  
~ Jocelyn (RN, St Joe's Rehab)###imported-begin##Jocelyn Kudla###imported-end##

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October 06, 2009 at 12:22 PM



“ I was in the 3rd grade when Ms. Thornton was a 2nd grade teacher at St. Joe's. I accidentally broke a vase on her desk and left her a note to apologize. She called me out of class and I was fearful of getting in trouble. She was kind and appreciated my honesty. She taught me that taking responsibility for my actions meant something. I never forgot that lesson and it has served me well. I have taught that to my son. I can still picture her talking to me; wearing lemon perfume 36 yrs ago. Ms. Thornton was great!  
I am deeply sorry for your loss.##imported-begin##Mary Raimo Baker##imported-end##

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October 04, 2009 at 05:11 PM



“ Dear Mr. Thornton and family -- I was blessed to have had Mrs. Thornton for my second grade teacher at St. Joes in Salem. Although our time together was thirty years ago, I will always treasure her kind, happy and gentle ways. She created a classroom environment for her students where everyone was valued and loved, yet ordered and respectful. She made me love going to school and set the tone for my entire academic career.

I still remember the day when she brought newborn Ben to school for us to meet (1978 or so?). It was quite a treat for us eight year old "big kids"!

Mrs. Thornton, this student will never forget you. May you be forever young as you are in my heart.

Warmly,  
Scot Gabriel - Salem, NH##imported-begin##Scot Gabriel##imported-end##

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October 03, 2009 at 04:51 PM



“ Auntie Mary – As we try to make sense of losing you to soon we know that you would want us to celebrate your life instead of mourn your death but if it were only that easy. The time we had with you was a gift and no words can describe how much you mean to us. You were a surrogate mother to many but to the Curcio kids you were our Auntie Mary. Thank you for always making us feel like we were one of your own, being there for us at our games/graduations/birthday parties/weddings/birth of our children/catching-the-big-one and to many other events to name. You treated our kids like your grandchildren and left the same imprint on their lives that you did ours. Thank you for making the 2.5 years that we lived in Hudson a great time in our lives, providing so much support to Kathy for the first 6 months of Connor’s life when he cried for 10 hours day, our Friday night ritual of Pizza Man and Bud, and giving Bob and Lorraine the piece of mind that while they were 90 miles away you were just down the road for Kathy and I. Thank you for always laughing at my jokes no matter what. Thank you for being such a great friend and sister to my mother, and a great sister in law to my father. Thank you for the gift of bringing Bob, Ben, and Amanda into our lives and the great group of people that have been drawn to them. Life will never be the same but you’ve taught us all so much by your example. Thank you for everything. I love you – Stephen.##imported-begin##Stephen Curcio##imported-end##

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October 03, 2009 at 10:07 AM



“ Hello Bob,

*So sorry to hear of your loss, I hope your memories will help you and your family to find peace and comfort at this sad time.*

*with sympathy, Marion##imported-begin##Marion Miller##imported-end##*

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October 02, 2009 at 09:29 AM



“ *My Mom told me as a child that I shouldn't use your friend's parent's first name. Since I haven't grown up too much it just feels right to say that... Mrs. Thornton was an AMAZING woman and an awesome mother! I remember her always being so calm even with all the ridiculous shenanigans taking place in the front yard (or the Marshall"s). If Basketball got too serious or WWF re-enactments got too physical she would keep the peace on the mean streets South Hudson.*

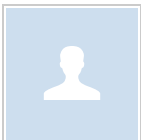
*Mrs. Thornton can never be replaced, but will be remembered forever. My thoughts are with you all.*

*Sincerely,*

*Jay (the kid on Anna Louise dr.)##imported-begin##Jason Pastorello##imported-end##*

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October 02, 2009 at 12:52 AM



“ *Mary- a second mother to many and an amazing woman, wife, role model and friend. May you find peace and comfort in heaven where we will see you again. All my love - Erin##imported-begin##Erin Ovalle##imported-end##*

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October 01, 2009 at 02:21 PM



“ *Mary truly was an angel, with her gentle, kind eyes that shined for all who have been blessed to know her. Her radiant spirit of love & kindness will live on through Ben, Amanda & Bob. She will be sadly missed, but never forgotten. Our deepest sympathy, Tod, Gail, Tim, Erin, Angela ODonnell###imported-begin##Gail ODonnell###imported-end##*

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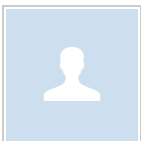
October 01, 2009 at 01:03 PM



“ *Bob, Ben and Amanda- I am so very sorry that you have lost your wife and mom. She loved you all so much and was very proud of her family. Mary is always the person at the very top of my list of being the nicest person in the world. Her gentle, calming, loving ways have touched us all. I'm so lucky to have had her in my life. Mary will always be a reminder of the kind of person I aspire to be.###imported-begin##Cathi Brittain###imported-end##*

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October 01, 2009 at 12:03 PM



“ *Mary, They say were there is love there is life and you were definately loved. And there is more love in our lives for knowing you. We will miss you, your smile, and your kind spirit. Love, Katie and Kyle###imported-begin##Katie and Kyle Maxwell###imported-end##*

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October 01, 2009 at 09:49 AM



“ Sweet Mary, your friendship will remain as one of the most sincere, enjoyable memories in my life. Thank you Ben and Mandy for introducing us so long ago! Your courage was profound to your family and to all who shared your journey over the past years. Bob, Ben and Amanda: you will proudly carry on her legacy. She will be missed by those of us who were so fortunate to have her as a friend. Rest in peace my dear friend. Much Love,  
Darlene###imported-begin##Darlene Parent###imported-end##

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October 01, 2009 at 08:30 AM



“ dearest mary,  
  
your strength and courage throughout this difficult time was tremendously admirable. you were an inspiration to all who knew you. your love for life was infectious and was a constant reminder through your beaming smile.  
  
may your spirit live on forever in the lives you've so deeply touched and the unending love you shared.  
  
how beautiful my life has been because you have so kindly touched it! i am so grateful to have known you.  
  
you will be warmly remembered.  
  
with all my love,  
pdogg###imported-begin##Amanda Parent###imported-end##

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October 01, 2009 at 01:09 AM



“ *Mary, you were one of the kindest, most loving, and beautiful people I have ever known, and I am so sad that your time with us has passed. It is clear that you touched the lives of so many. Because of you and your family, I have some of the greatest childhood memories anyone could ask for. Thank you for everything and I truly hope that you are resting peacefully.##imported-begin##Carrie Marshall##imported-end##*

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September 30, 2009 at 11:10 PM



“ *Dear Amanda, Ben & Family,*

*We are so very sorry to hear about the loss of your mom. I remember meeting your mom for the first time when all of you were little and she had the most radiant smile I'd ever seen! I will never forget her warmth and gentleness. Please know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers and we are here for you.  
Love, Donna, Doug, Jason, Mark & Adam##imported-begin##Donna Pastorello##imported-end##*

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September 30, 2009 at 10:16 PM



“ Dear Bob, Ben and Amanda;

*Sorry for your loss. I am saddened to hear of Mary's passing. Mary was a beautiful and courageous woman with a huge heart and full of life.*

*I had the extreme pleasure of meeting Mary by living in the same neighborhood as our children were growing up. I would bump into Mary at the grocery store and even though she may have been in a hurry after work to get home and cook for her family; she would always take the time to say hello with that beautiful infectious smile.*

*My thoughts and prayers will always be with you.*

*With Heartfelt and Deepest Sympathy Always;*

*Very Sincerely;*

*Maria Economou##imported-begin##Maria Economou##imported-end##*

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September 30, 2009 at 08:45 PM



“ *To the Thornton Family:*

*Mary was a lovely lady that I have fond memories of. As a teenager, Mary was very kind to have asked me to watch over Ben and Amanda (when they were younger) while she was working at the school. I always enjoyed talking with Mary and the warmth she brought to everyone. She was a beautiful person and I wish you nothing but wonderful memories of her during this difficult time.*

*Sincerely,  
Melissa Economou##imported-begin##Melissa  
Economou##imported-end##*

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September 30, 2009 at 03:59 PM



“ *Bob, Ben and Amanda,*

*I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your lovely Mary. She was such a kind loving person and my girls thought of her as their second mother. I wish I could be with all of you at this time. Please know my thoughts are with all of you and my deepest sympathy to you and your family. Some of my fondest memories were spent with Mary and she will be sadly missed. She was the kindest sweetest person I knew, she was a true friend. Love to you all and I will be with you in my thoughts and prayers.##imported-begin##Janet (Emerson) Frenette##imported-end##*

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September 30, 2009 at 01:07 PM



“ *Mary- Watching your strength, courage, and bravery over the last year was truly amazing. I am so honored to have known you my entire life. You will be forever loved and forever missed.##imported-begin##Eliza Smith##imported-end##*

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September 30, 2009 at 12:53 PM



“ *We will miss you. You were a beloved angel on earth. Love now and forever.##imported-begin##Frank and Verna Thornton##imported-end##*

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September 30, 2009 at 11:51 AM



“ *From Auntie Mary's 4 year old great niece, Lindsey: A Poem for Auntie Mary  
Roses are Red  
Violets are Blue  
You are the most specialest person ever  
And I love you!##imported-begin##Lindsey Barbella##imported-end##*

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September 30, 2009 at 11:18 AM



“ *Beautiful inside and out, always smiling and forever kind. Mary, you raised two amazing children, you will forever live on through them. If I can be half the mother you were, I will feel accomplished and proud. It was an honor to be a part of your life. You have left a shining image in my memory forever. Love Forever, Andrea Jette, Eric Rosario, and Jaslene##imported-begin##Andrea Jette##imported-end##*

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September 30, 2009 at 09:54 AM



“ Dear Ben, Amanda, and family. We are so saddened to hear about your mom. Although we did not have the pleasure of knowing her that well, every time we met, she was always so pleasant and always had that beautiful smiling face. Our sincere sympathy.  
The Scire Family  
Hudson, NH###imported-begin##Jackie Scire##imported-end##

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September 30, 2009 at 09:12 AM



“ Loving and caring, a friend to all, Mary was a blessing to her students and fellow teachers.  
She will always be remembered with a smile.  
Mary Ring###imported-begin##Mary Ring##imported-end##

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September 30, 2009 at 08:30 AM



“ Mary was a woman who was loved and admired by many, and we feel blessed to have known her thanks to the friendship of Ben and Matt.  
To Bob, Ben and Amanda - our deepest and most heartfelt sympathy. Kathi & Dick Laliberte###imported-begin##Kathi Laliberte##imported-end##

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September 30, 2009 at 08:00 AM



“ I have known Mary since 1992 as a colleague at American Training, Inc., and more importantly as a friend.

*I will miss her smile, her easy-going manner, her concern for family, friends, and those for whom she championed.*

*The world is a better place for having had Mary as a loving wife, mother and teacher, and I am a better person for having had the privilege of being her friend.*

*Rest in peace sweet Mary.*

*Jan Nelson###imported-begin##Jan Nelson###imported-end##*

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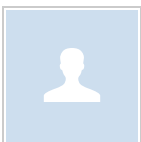
September 29, 2009 at 07:54 PM



“ Mary was one of the most kind, gentle, and loving people I knew. She leaves a lasting impression with me and all whom she touched. We are truly blessed to have been a part of her life.###imported-begin##Barbara (Lippold) Tremblay###imported-end##

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September 29, 2009 at 04:49 PM



“ Mary- You were truly a special person. You will be missed by all of us that have had the pleasure of knowing and loving you. May you finally rest in peace.

*Love always- Cynde###imported-begin##Cynde Marshall Hartmann###imported-end##*

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September 29, 2009 at 04:21 PM