



Mary Jean Bell

July 12, 1952 - May 27, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Mary Jean Bell (McNeal), age 72, who died peacefully at the University of Kansas Medical Center on Tuesday, May 27, surrounded by her loving husband and four children.

Mary was born on July 12, 1952, in St. Joseph, Missouri, the daughter of the late Eugene Dale McNeal and Mary Ellen (Mayse) McNeal. Mary was lovingly known as “Tootsie” by family and friends all her days since babyhood. As a devoted advocate for children, her compassion and dedication was evident in her work as a paraprofessional at Highlands Elementary School and later as a committed CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer.

Mary is survived by her devoted husband of 49 years, Donald Keith Bell; her daughter, Lauren Elaine Bell; her three sons, Stuart Keith Bell (Sunny Elizabeth Bell), Spencer Thomas Bell, and Neal Patrick Bell (Bridget Colleen Rellihan Bell). She was a beloved grandmother to five grandchildren: Jack Logan Bell, Larkin Soleil Bell, Patrick Bell, Liam Bell, and Murphy Bell. Brothers and Sisters, Peggy Maats (Job Maats), Patrick McNeal (Joan McNeal), Kathy McNeal, William McNeal (Susan McNeal), Michael McNeal (Catherine McNeal), and Joseph McNeal (Helen McNeal).

Mary will be remembered for her boundless love for her family, her

unwavering support for children and the kindness she extended to all who knew her.