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Ancestry.com.**Database:** Ohio Deaths, 1958-2000January 19, 2005
11:07 AM**What to do next?**

Name: **MARY JO STAFFORD**
Gender: Female
Date of Death: July 29, 1999
Birth Date: May 12, 1912
Volume: 32049
Certificate: 060222
Autopsy: N
Social Security Number: 297409515
Father's Surname: STAFFORD
Time of Death: 1:05 AM
Marital Status: never married
Hispanic Origin: Not Hispanic
Place of Death: hospital/inpatient
Years of Schooling: 17
Certifier: Physician
Branch of Service:
Method of Disposition: Burial
Mother's Surname: FELL
Race: White
Birth Place: MARION, MARION, Ohio
Residence: MARION, Ohio
Age: 87 years

Source Information:

Ohio Department of Health. *Ohio Death Index, 1958-2000* [database online]. Provo, UT: MyFamily.com, Inc., 2003. Original data: Ohio Department of Health. *Index to Annual Deaths, 1958-2000*. Columbus, Ohio: Ohio Department of Health. State Vital Statistics Unit, 19xx-.

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Mary Jo Stafford

MARION — Mary Jo Stafford, a longtime civic leader who taught in the Marion Public School System for 38 years, died Thursday, July 29, 1999, in Marion General Hospital of complications following a stroke.



STAFFORD
JUL 30 1999

Miss Stafford, 87, had been residing in Sunrise Care Center for the last four years.

Born May 12, 1912, in Marion, she was the daughter of the late John J. and Hadessa LaVerne Fell Stafford.

After graduating from Harding High School, she received her A.B. degree in English and sociology from Ohio Wesleyan University and her B.S. degree in education from Ohio State University.

Miss Stafford spent her first 10 years in teaching at the old Edison School, before moving to Harding where she taught English for 28 years. During most of her career at Harding, she also served as adviser for the school's yearbook.

A lifelong member of Epworth United Methodist Church, she served in many capacities for the church and for the United Methodist Women, both locally and on the district level.

Although Miss Stafford was active in many organizations during her teaching career, she stepped up the pace of her volunteer service after retirement in 1973.

Her many volunteer affiliations included the Red Cross, where she served in various capacities for 40 years; the Salvation Army and its advisory board; Lecture Recital Club, Literature Study Group; Marion Association of University Women; Marion Retired Teachers Association; the Marion County Historical Society; WCTU; the YMCA Endowment Board; and the Council on Aging, of which she was a charter member.

Miss Stafford also was an honorary trustee of Marion's Northeast Neighborhood Center where she served as a founding board member, and was a former member of the board of trustees of Marion General Hospital. She continued to be an active supporter of Ohio Wesleyan, where she had been a member of the Gamma Phi Beta Sorority.

An active member of the Democratic Party, she served as a poll worker and was involved in many city, state and national campaigns.

She took pride in the fact that one of her former students, Mary Ellen Withrow, currently serves as treasurer of the United States.

Over the years, Miss Stafford received numerous awards for her community service, including the first Award of Harmony from the Marionaires Barbershop Chorus, the Distinguished Citizen Award presented in 1982 and Better Life Award from the Ohio Healthcare Association. After receiving the Outstanding Senior Citizen Award for Marion County, she was elected to the Ohio Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1988.

Survivors include a niece, Jane Davis of Lebanon, Ohio; a nephew, Roger Stafford of Mequon, Wis.; grandnieces Tobey Pfleger of Grafton, Wis., Haley Stafford of Milwaukee, Wis., and Kathryn Culbertson of Lawrenceville, Ga.; a grandnephew, John Stafford of West Allis, Wis.; three great-grandnieces; and one great-grandnephew. In recent years, she was capably cared for by her cousin, Norma Jean Hatcher of Prospect, and by Mrs. Betty Fortner of Marion.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday in Epworth United Methodist church with the Rev. Daniel Kiger officiating.

Burial will be in Caledonia Cemetery.

Friends may call from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday at the Denzer-Farison-Hottinger Funeral Home or at the church before the service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Epworth United Methodist Church or the Salvation Army.

STAFFORD, MARY JO

(D. 07-29-99)

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