



Joan Delores Dunlap

May 7, 1926 - March 24, 2026

Joan Dunlap, age 99, passed away peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of love, learning, and family that spans generations.

A devoted mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother; she was the heart of her family and a guiding light to all who knew her. Her life was rich with stories, wisdom, and quiet strength, and she took immense pride in watching her family grow through the years.

A retired teacher, Mrs. Dunlap dedicated her professional life to educating and encouraging young minds. Teaching was more than a career for her-it was a calling that she capitalized on at every opportunity. Whether it was playing car games during road trips or quizzing math facts and English terminology, the opportunity was never missed. She believed deeply in the power of education and carried that belief into every part of her life, always ready with encouragement, patience, and a gentle lesson when one was needed. Her classroom was a place of patience and possibility, where every child felt seen and encouraged. Even years after retirement, former students share tales of how her guidance had changed the course of their lives.

She was known for her kindness, her steady presence, and her unmistakable love for the color pink-a reflection of her warm spirit and joyful outlook on life. Whether through her lipstick, clothing, or small thoughtful touches, pink

brought her happiness and became a charming part of how family and friends remember her.

Joan lived a long and meaningful life, marked by devotion to family, the Catholic Church, and gratitude for each day. She will be remembered for her grace, her dedication, and the love she so freely gave.

She is survived by her loving family, who will cherish her memory and carry forward the lessons she taught by both word and example.

Her life was a gift to all who knew her, and her legacy will continue through the many generations she helped shape.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 11:00 AM on Monday, March 30 at St. Therese Catholic Church in Mooresville.

Joan asked that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Doctors without Borders or Welcome Home Veterans.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home, Mooresville, NC, is proudly serving the Dunlap family. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Previous Events

Mass

MAR **30**. 11:00 AM - 11:45 AM (ET)

St. Therese Catholic Church
217 Brawley School Road
 Mooresville, NC 28117

Tribute Wall

CE

“ I had Joan as a teacher and later I done her hair and we became great friends. She was a wonderful lady. Maybe she rest in peace and her family will miss her terribly

Carol Everhart - March 30 at 09:00 PM

PG

“ My sympathy to the family. 🙏
She was my favorite teacher and a darling person.

Pam Hendrix Glenn - March 27 at 09:56 PM

CA

“ I'll tell you one thing, I loved Joan!! She was so funny and witty.
(our joke was I'll tell you one thing 😂)

connie adams - March 27 at 07:52 PM

SJ

“ Mrs Dunlap was a wonderful person, lady, and teacher. I was fortunate to have had her as my teacher. She was so sweet. I knew she truly cared. I am sorry for your loss. May your beautiful memories help you thru this difficult time.

SUE KELLEY JOHNSON - March 27 at 06:14 PM

JB

“ My sincere condolences. She was my teacher around '82-'84 & I was very grateful to have had her. She was a beautiful person inside & out. She will be missed by many. Jody Berry

Jody Berry - March 27 at 02:48 PM

BH

My sincere condolences to the entire family...and what a stirring tribute to such a beautiful woman. Mrs. Dunlap (as we all respectfully called her) was my 8th grade English teacher at Ernie Pyle elementary school. I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to her for teaching, insisting and inspiring me to become a good communicator. Without her, I would likely never have succeeded as my career required good communication skills and effective writing. She was tough on us and I was a constant joker and disrupter, but she had the patience to overcome my flaws. I went to see her about the time she retired and told her how much she meant to me. Bob Heskett

Bob Heskett - March 27 at 08:41 PM

BS

“*My deepest condolences to the family. Mrs Dunlap was one of my favorite teachers and persons. She taught me how to type and today people are amazed at my typing and I always credit her. I so enjoyed seeing her and visiting with her at Elder-Beerman when I worked there. She was a wonderful lady and lived an amazing life. She will be missed but she will carry on in our hearts.*

Brian T Short - March 27 at 02:13 PM

LG

“*My sincere condolences. Not only was Mrs.Dunlap a wonderful teacher , she was a lovely human being . She taught 5 of my siblings in addition to myself . Last time I saw her was decades ago while I was home visiting family and I saw her sitting at that small restaurant on 9th street (that is no longer there) She said she knew who I was from my ref hair . I sat and chatted with her for about 5 minutes and I told her she was one of my 2 favorite teachers . She laughed and said “but I was # 1 right ?” □*

ILynn Carty Gill - March 27 at 01:48 PM

VD

“ Pam and family. I'm so sorry to hear of Joan's passing. I was planning to send her a 100th birthday card in May. She was always a joy to be around, and when I think of her, I do think of pink! Prayers of peace and comfort.

Velann Dorfmeier - March 27 at 01:26 PM

TC

Mrs. Dunlap was my favorite grade school teacher, at Fairview grade school; in 1962. I Loved hearing her stories, about when she was a young girl! So sorry for your family's loss! 🙏

Theresa clark - March 28 at 09:50 AM