

## Mary Culverwell

- Mary grew up in Adams, Massachusetts, the birthplace of Susan B. Anthony. She became friends with a cousin of the descendent of Susan B. Anthony. Her father came over on a boat from Poland. He went to electrical school and became an electrician. Her mother worked at the Adams Supermarket. Her mother also got a job working part-time at the Polish Bakery in town. The family also included two brothers and a sister. Mary lived in Adams until she left for college where she studied secretarial skills.
- As a child growing up in Adams, Mary was happy. In the summer she went to pond to swim in the cold water. In the winter she could be found at Forest Park Ave. with her flying saucer sliding down the hills. She went to the local theater and the movies. The Crest Hangout was a favorite with the teenage crowd. It was owned by a Greek. He made chocolate candy and was known for his solid chocolate Easter bunnies.
- Her 1<sup>st</sup> job was to work for her uncle, a lawyer in the town of Adams. She was 16 years old. Her job was to do office work including making copies.
- She moved to Connecticut and went to work for Pratt and Whitney as a secretary. Her favorite job was working at Little Mark's Barbeque in Vernon as a waitress. Mary worked three jobs at the time to pay bills and bring up her daughter Alyssa.
- Mary's happiest memory was of her 25<sup>th</sup> class reunion. She went by herself and reunited with her friend Richard. He was in her class in high school. They have been together ever since.

- The most influential person in her life was her mother. She had an aura like Jackie Kennedy. She taught her the importance of her work ethic and family values.
- Her father took her to Prejnar's garage in Adams. There were eight cars in the bays. She picked a 1968 white Chevy Impala convertible for her first car.
- If she could go back to any year, she would go back to 1993 when her daughter got married. It was one of the happiest times of her life.
- Mary's advice to others is to live life to the fullest. She also said to be thankful for the good and bad times.
- One of the most rewarding things about getting older for Mary is the Tolland Senior Center. Everyone there is so friendly and active. This is the place to be to find friendships and great activities to engage in.
- She is the proudest of her family, her daughter and grand daughter Quinn. Mary is happy that Quinn's brain tumor is in remission. Quinn, at 14 became a spokesperson for the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp. The family has created the Quinn Foundation to reach out to families of children with cancer. They enjoy giving back for all they have been given.
- The things that make Mary the happiest now are going to the chair yoga class, the exercise classes at the senior center and connecting with others. Walking around Willington and Tolland is another activity Mary enjoys.
- She says she would like to be remembered as the "other Mary."
- If you would like to meet our May Queen Mary, come to chair yoga or one of the exercise classes. Mary's smile will always greet you.