



## Mary MacDonal

July 4, 1949 - October 22, 2025

Mary Lehman MacDonal, Advocate for Health Care and Social Justice, Dies at 76

Mary Lehman MacDonal, a passionate advocate for labor rights, health care, and the arts, died on September 23 at her home in Baltimore. She was 76.

As Director of AFT Healthcare, the health care division of the American Federation of Teachers, she represented tens of thousands of nurses and health professionals, helping shape national health care policy. Prior to that, she worked with the AFL-CIO and served on numerous boards, including the Maryland Health Care Foundation and the National Quality Forum's Measure Applications Partnership.

A lifelong activist, Mary was involved in labor negotiations across the country and took part in humanitarian efforts in New Orleans, Haiti, and South Africa. She also volunteered locally with the College Bound Foundation and Reading is Fundamental.

Mary's love for the arts began in New York City, where she worked at RCA Records and the Brooklyn Academy of Music with the Chelsea Theater Center. A devoted jazz and classical music fan, she made regular trips to New York's theaters and opera houses and attended the Monterey and Newport

Jazz Festivals every year.

She was a lifelong Orioles fan, a devoted Ravens supporter, and a passionate patron of the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Mary earned her degrees from Penn State and Cornell University, where she also taught. She leaves behind a legacy of service, integrity, and joy.

She is survived by her husband, Richard Rimkunas; her stepchildren, Matthew Rimkunas and Lauren Galarneau; and three grandchildren.