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Mary Whyte, 98, Active in Junior Leagues, Helped Develop 'McGruff the Crime Dog'

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Date : November 13, 2017

Mary Pickard Whyte, 98, died peacefully at home in Darien on Nov. 7, 2017.

Born in the Hell's Kitchen section of New York City, Mary lived previously in Scarsdale, N.Y., Chappaqua, N.Y., Harrisburg, Pa., Greenwich and Norwalk.

She was predeceased by her husband, Bill Whyte, and her daughter, Honey Whyte Scuterud.

She was a member of the Junior League of America in several states and later employed by them to assist groups in many states qualify to become official leagues and also to organize and manage their national

conventions.

— [an obituary](#) from *Thomas Gallagher Funeral Home*

In the 1980s and 1990s she served on the Board of Directors of the National Crime Prevention Council and was instrumental in developing and promoting "[McGruff the Crime Dog](#)."

Though a staunch Republican through the 1990s, her politics moved left after 2001 and she was a strong supporter of Barack Obama.

Mary loved playing tennis with her good friends in the Fairfield County Women's Tennis League for many years. And, she was an enthusiastic volunteer at the Rowayton Library and the Maritime Aquarium.

She is survived by a daughter, Barbara Whyte Moeling of Norwalk; grandsons: Ben and Justin Moeling and Erik and Alex Scuterud; and her great granddaughter, Ivy Richardson.

Services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be made to the [Maritime Aquarium](#).

Arrangements are under the direction of Thomas M. Gallagher Funeral Home, 203-359-9999.

To send online condolences to the family, please visit www.gallagherfuneralhome.com.