



Joan Marie Drury

November 12, 2020

Joan Marie Burke Drury, beloved mother and sister, died peacefully at home on November 12, 2020 surrounded by family and her caring aide, Lurline. Joan was a loving wife to the late Charles F. Drury for 14 years. She is survived by her sister, Moira Burke of Newington and three children – Laura and Randy Sykes of West Simsbury, Marcia DeCarli of Willington and Charles and Clare Drury of Bristol. Joan was predeceased by her three sisters, Barbara Burke, Ellen Kennedy, Nancy Burke and her beloved brother, Christopher Burke. Joan also leaves eight grandchildren, fifteen great grandchildren and many Kennedy nieces and nephews who were very dear to her.

Joan was born in Litchfield, CT to the late John Michael Burke and Mary Dunn Burke. She was a graduate of Litchfield High School, St. Joseph College and completed her graduate work at University of Hartford. Joan started her career in neurology nursing at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford as a floor nurse and teacher. She also worked at Norwich State Hospital and for many years as a school nurse in the Hartford Public Schools.

Joan was a faithful communicant of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in West Hartford. She cherished her Irish heritage and enjoyed visiting relatives in Ireland on numerous occasions and spending vacations on Cape Cod with Charlie and her sisters. She loved animals and was known to adopt cats or dogs she rescued. Joan was an avid reader and lover of old movies on Turner Classic Movies. She never missed a birthday and relied on her little address book to keep track of family and friends' special days.

Joan's family would like to thank the many aides from Right at Home in Wethersfield who cared for her at home during the past 5 years, especially Shoira, Pilar, Renee and most especially, Lurline, who provided loving care during her final months.

Due to Covid 19, there will be no calling hours. A Celebration of Life Mass will be celebrated at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 872 Farmington Ave, West Hartford, CT on Monday, November 16, 2020 at 11 a.m. Capacity restrictions due to Covid 19 will be in place at the church. Burial will follow the Mass at Fairview Cemetery in West Hartford.

Donations in Joan's memory may be made to Our Companions Animal Rescue and Sanctuary, P.O. Box 956, Manchester, CT 06045 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital at stjude.org.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Molloy Funeral Home, West Hartford, CT.

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 16. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle
872 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Graveside Service

NOV 16. 12:30 PM (ET)

Fairview Cemetery
200 Whitman Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

TW

“ *Chuck, Marcia & Laura,*

I just learned of Joan's passing today! My condolences to all of you. Joan was such a kind and caring person. Always thinking of others. You took to her instantly.

Tim Wholey

Timothy Wholey - December 20, 2020 at 06:09 PM

SH

“ *Joan was truly a wonderful and special woman. Our mother and father were so happy when she came into Uncle Charlie's life. She so quickly became a member of our extended family. Her warm smile and gentle manner will never be forgotten. Stan and I send our sincere condolences to Chuck, Marcia and Laura. We are so very sorry we did not learn of her passing until after the funeral as we would certainly have been in attendance.*

*Love,
Maryellen*

Stanley Halibozek - December 01, 2020 at 07:42 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Joan Marie Drury.*



November 14, 2020 at 07:51 PM

DK

“ When Aunt Joan came in a room, all the dogs tail-wagged, all the cats purred and all the people smiled. They smiled in Litchfield, at St. Joseph’s College, in hospitals around Connecticut and at Joan’s last job at Annie Fisher school where she was a devoted school nurse who would share stories about the students as though each was her own loved child. For us eight Kennedy kids nothing would make us run to the door faster, or make the dog go more insane with happiness, than Aunt Joan’s arrival. We didn’t recognize it at the time, but she was in large part our Santa, Easter Bunny and birthday benefactor all rolled into one and her constant presence kept our mom sane, which couldn’t have been a small task for a mom raising that many kids solo. I remember us kids as teens worrying when we realized Joan hadn’t married and that she might miss out on having a family considering the joy she gave ours. We were all so excited when she met and married Charlie, became Joan Drury and was able to share herself with Chuck, Marcia, Laura and their wonderful families. It was the best thing that happened to her. For us kids, it made 42 Brunswick Ave an always warm and welcoming place whether for Christmases, birthdays or just gatherings with lots of laughter with Charlie and Joan at the center and then dear Joan carrying on the tradition.

David Kennedy - November 14, 2020 at 06:16 PM

CD

“ Mike and I send our deepest sympathy over the passing of your Mom, Laura. Our sympathies go to Randy and your entire family! We send our love!
Cindi and Mike



Cindi & Mike DeMeo - November 13, 2020 at 11:18 PM

TK

“ Ever since I can remember, my Aunt Joan was a special person in our lives. Never a birthday went by that wasn't remembered by a card, arriving on the day of the birthday, with a few dollars of spending money in it for her seven nephews and niece. So many wonderful summers spent on Cape Cod with Aunt John being our guide and benefactress. Introducing us to the Drury family, taking such wonderful care of her beloved husband Charlie and then our mother Ellen as the two of them lived together until my Mom's passing. Always happy, always glad to see us. always chin up in the face of years of rehab from an injured leg. Valedictorian of her class in high school and a St Joseph College nurse. Truly a remarkable woman.

God bless you Aunt Joan. Rest in peace. I can only imagine the wonderful reunion that's going on with all of the Burkes in Heaven.

Tom Kennedy and family

Tom Kennedy - November 13, 2020 at 11:12 PM