



Cornelia Landon Russell

April 8, 2024

Cornelia Landon Russell (Corny), 96, of Farmington, died on April 8, 2024, following a brief illness. The daughter of Henry Hutton Landon and Cornelia Sage (Landon) Williams, she was born in New York City, on November 4, 1927. She moved to Hartford with her family in 1937. Except for the first ten years of her marriage, she lived in the Greater Hartford area for the rest of her life.

She attended Oxford School in West Hartford. She graduated from Kent Place School in Summit, NJ, in 1946, and Bennett Junior College in Millbrook, NY, in 1948. She worked at the Junior School in West Hartford, which later became Renbrook School. She married John Butler Russell in May 1951. At the time of their marriage, he worked for the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Service Officer, and they spent the first few years of their married life at postings in Montevideo, Uruguay, and Havana, Cuba. They returned to the United States permanently in 1954. Upon their return they lived in Riverside, CT, for six years, before moving to West Hartford in 1961.

She raised three children and was active in volunteer organizations, including the Girl Scouts, the PTO of the Lloyd H. Bugbee School in West Hartford, and the Junior League. She went to work in her 40s, first as an elementary school crossing guard in West Hartford, then as a teacher's aide at the Oak Hill School in Hartford, a job that she loved. She retired from Oak Hill in June

1989 to move on to her rewarding next chapter: helping to take care of her grandchildren.

Corny was loving, warm, generous, lively, stubbornly independent, and a born caregiver, who would do anything for the people she loved. Her family and friends were the center of her world, and she had a special gift for connecting with children and animals.

In her later years there were losses. She outlived her husband, most of her siblings, and many of her friends. In her mid-80s, she began losing her eyesight as a result of macular degeneration, a process that was complete by 2021. With the loss of her eyesight, she also lost her independence and had to give up her beloved dog when she could no longer take care of him. However, she never lost her mental acuity, her prodigious memory, her optimistic nature, and her care and concern for others.

Cornelia L. Russell is survived by her brother, Staunton Williams, Jr., of Northampton, MA; three children: Sage Russell of Frederick, MD (Jeff Mason); Jan Russell Erikson of Tolland (John); and Hunt Russell of Bloomfield; six grandchildren: Elisabeth Russell Hoff (Sam), Emily Russell, Cornelia Russell, Katie Erikson, Kevin Erikson, and Dan Erikson; three great-grandchildren, Evie, Freya and Johnny; and numerous nieces and nephews, friends and neighbors.

She was predeceased by her parents; her husband of 56 years, John B. Russell; three brothers: Harry Landon, Bill Williams, and Hank Williams; her sister, Nancy Landon Ashford; two nieces and a nephew.

Her family would like to thank the staff at Brookdale Gables in Farmington, for their attentive care during the last two and a half years of her life, as well as AccentCare Hospice and the doctors, nurses and aides on the 6th floor of the

UConn John Dempsey Hospital, for their compassionate and professional care during her final illness.

A memorial service will be held at St. John's Episcopal Church in West Hartford on June 22, at 11:00 a.m. Molloy Funeral Home of West Hartford is assisting the family with arrangements. Burial will be private at the Grove Street Cemetery in New Haven.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society (www.cthumane.org) or Westie Rescue USA (www.westierescue.com).

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUN **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. John's Episcopal Church
679 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

DG

“ Kathleen Holt Gomez, my late wife, and Corny were dear friends who called each other “Cousine.” They were childhood friends, were both students at Kent Place, and were related by marriage: Corny’s father, Skipper (Henry Hutton Landon) was happily married to Kathy’s aunt, Alice. Kathy was also married for a time to Corny’s brother, Harry (Henry Hutton Landon Jr.) which produced two beautiful children, Hut Landon and Susan Landon Marks. Most of all Corny and Kathy truly enjoyed each other’s company and, despite years of not seeing one another and little contact, could happily reunite as only close friends can who have shared so much and love one another without judgment. Kathy was born a few months before Corny and predeceased her by three years. Had she still been with us, Kathy would grieve the loss of her Cousine. But now, they share a blessed eternity, and we who are left are blessed by their memory.

David Frederick Gomez
Carmel by the Sea, CA

David Frederick Gomez - June 17, 2024 at 11:19 PM

AD

“ AD
We were saddened to hear of Corny's passing. When I last spoke to her in January, her voice was so vibrant on the phone and she said to me: "I'm still here. I don't know why, but I am!" and she laughed. We have so many memories of her from when we lived across the street. Our boys adored her and she was so kind to them! She was incredibly brave as she lost her vision and McDuff. Her attitude was an inspiration to me. I'm really going to miss her.

Alison Deldicque - May 05, 2024 at 01:37 PM

SR

Dear Alison,

Thank you so much for sharing your memories of my mother and taking the time to write. My mother loved children, and having you and Greg and your three boys across the street was a source of great joy to her.

It means a lot to Jan and Hunt and me that others knew and loved her and admired her fortitude and will carry their memories of her into the future.

*Warm wishes,
Sage*

Sage Russell - May 12, 2024 at 10:31 AM

CS

“Russell” as I always knew her was a shining light always in my life. I can’t say for certain when exactly she came into my life because I was a very young child. She used to cross my brother over Mountain Road to go to school and my mom and she became lifelong friends after that. A year never went by after that which I didn’t receive a birthday card and small check from Russell. She never forgot me. And, I’ll never forget her. Her kindness, consideration, love and friendship toward our family was and is such a special memory. I feel a deep loss at the moment for her to have moved on but I can say sincerely that I am very lucky as well as a better person for the time I was able to spend with our dear friend Russell. You are deeply missed!

Craig Schneeberger - April 28, 2024 at 11:52 AM

SR

Dear Craig,

You and your brother Scott were very important to my mother. We knew you called her Russell, I guess because Mrs. Russell was hard for a kindergartener to say. She liked to share happy news about people she liked (and there were many!) with other people she liked. We heard stories about you for years and followed your paths to adulthood through her. Thank you so much for taking the time to write. It means a lot to Jan and Hunt and me.

Warmly,

Sage Russell

Sage Russell - April 30, 2024 at 10:01 AM

AD

We were saddened to hear of Corny's passing. When I last spoke to her in January, her voice was so vibrant on the phone and she said to me: "I'm still here. I don't know why, but I am!" and she laughed. We have so many memories of her from when we lived across the street. Our boys adored her and she was so kind to them! She was incredibly brave as she lost her vision and McDuff. Her attitude was an inspiration to me. I'm really going to miss her.

Alison Deldicque - May 05, 2024 at 01:37 PM