



## Gara Van Schaack

October 9, 2021

Gara Van Schaack of Newington, CT passed away peacefully on October 9th at the age of 88. Gara was affectionately known as Sphinx to her family and close friends. She grew up in West Hartford and attended Beach Park School, Oxford School and Centenary Jr. College. Gara recently attended her 70th reunion at Kingswood Oxford School, much to her delight! As a child, her summers were spent in Groton Long Point with her family, which she always had great memories of.

In her professional life she was a medical assistant and a devoted volunteer at Hartford Hospital, putting in 20,000 plus hours throughout her lifetime. Gara also spent many holidays volunteering at local soup kitchens, which was very rewarding to her.

Gara is predeceased by her parents, Bulkeley and Garafelia (Soren) and her brother David. Gara leaves her loving sister-in-law & dear friend, Geraldine Van Schaack. She also leaves her devoted nephews Buck (Mandy) and Peter, along with her great nephews and great nieces and four great great nieces and nephews.

There will be a graveside service to commemorate her life on October 18th at 2pm at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Hartford, CT.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in her name, to a soup kitchen of your choice. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)



# Previous Events

## Graveside Service

OCT 18. 2:00 PM (ET)

Cedar Hill Cemetery  
453 Fairfield Ave.  
Hartford, CT

# Tribute Wall

KH

“ I was a fellow Hartford Hospital Auxiliary Store volunteer with Gara on a shift together for very many years. She always seemed to love hearing about my family, and I loved hearing her tales about her times with her family. Gara was a dedicated and long time Hartford Hospital volunteer. I enjoyed taking her out for lunch on her birthdays after volunteering at the Auxiliary Store was no longer possible. I will always remember Gara and miss her.

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**Kathy Herzog** - October 26, 2021 at 02:14 PM

NP

“ Gara has been a member of the Junior League of Hartford for over 67 years! She has given so much to the greater Hartford community through her volunteer work with the Junior League of Hartford. For many, many years, Gara has continued her volunteer service as a Junior League of Hartford "Souper Sustainer", volunteering at the Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen in Hartford. In 2020, Gara was honored with the Junior League of Hartford 2020 "Shero" Award for her voluntarism and dedication and commitment to helping to feed the hungry in our community. We will all miss Gara's smile. What a truly special woman. We are all so grateful to have been able to spend time with her over the years. She will be missed.

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**Nancy La Perla** - October 18, 2021 at 10:24 PM

HV

“ *My sympathy to Gara's family. My thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*I have know Gara more than 40 years. We both volunteered at HH Monday nights and had dinner together for many years.*

*I will miss seeing her around the hospital*

*We both went to Oxford. We did not know each other then as I was several years older*

*Peace*

*hazel vail*

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**Hazel Vail** - October 18, 2021 at 03:08 PM

EM

“ *"Well done good and faithful servant!" Those were the words Gara surely heard from her maker as she entered paradise.*

*A volunteer at Hartford Hospital for over 60 years, Gara served steadily, quietly, humbly. Her contributions to the hospital community will never be forgotten and she will be missed dearly.*

*Rest in Peace Gara. Thank you for your life of service to others and your legacy of selfless giving.*

*Erin Mccallon-Estremera  
Volunteer Services, Hartford Hospital*

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**Erin McCallon-Estremera** - October 16, 2021 at 07:42 AM

HE

“Gara was one of the Best Volunteer that we had at are Cancer Center. She will be greatly missed.

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**Helen** - October 15, 2021 at 03:56 PM