



Joanne C. Coursey

October 29, 1929 - March 10, 2018

Joanne C. (Kelly) Coursey, of West Hartford, beloved wife of the late Jerry J. Coursey, Jr., passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Saturday, March 10. Ms. Coursey was born in Omaha, Nebraska on October 29, 1929 and was the daughter of Martin M. and Lucetta (Tully) Kelly. As a child, Joanne was in poor health and doctors encouraged her parents to move the family west towards more favorable climate. The Kelly's first moved briefly to Lincoln, Nebraska, where the family's second child, Mary Jeanine, was born and promptly nicknamed "NeNe" by her older sister. Following a similarly brief stay in Salt Lake City, Utah, the family settled in Denver, Colorado. After earning her associates degree at Denver's Loretto Heights College, Joanne worked for two years for Braniff Airways. In 1951, she married fellow Denver native Jerry J. "Corky" Coursey, Jr., a U.S. Air Force lieutenant and recent graduate of Denver's Regis College. Together they raised five boys who were born over 11 years, from 1952 to 1963. The growing Coursey family lived on Ramey Air Force Base in Puerto Rico, back in Denver, then in Long Beach, CA before moving to Cliffmore Road in West Hartford in the summer of 1966. Joanne was a supportive partner to Jerry and their agency, The Coursey Agency, as well as a mentor to many general agent's spouses in the Connecticut Mutual Life family for 30 years. After raising her children and maintaining a warm and welcoming home, Joanne decided that it was time to do something for herself. She returned to college in 1976 and continued her education at St. Joseph College in West Hartford. She graduated in 1985 with

Academic Honors with a degree in Art History and Political Science and a minor in Women's Studies. An article about battered women in Ms. Magazine moved her to help victims of domestic violence. Together with a group of female lawyers, social workers and activists, she helped establish Hartford Interval House, a non-profit organization that offers free services to victims of domestic violence. Interval House opened Hartford's first "safe house" – a protected shelter in a confidential location -- for the female victims of spousal abuse. Since its inception in 1977, over 225,000 women have benefitted from Interval House's wide array of programs and services. Joanne was a proud Founding Board Member of Interval House, serving on the board from 1977 to 1991 and continued to volunteer for the organization as a tireless volunteer and fundraiser for the next 20 years. In 1998, Joanne received a Master's in Counseling from St. Joseph College, which enabled her to provide free counseling services to the women who sought help from Interval House. In September 2001, Joanne was honored as The Hartford Courant "Volunteer of the Week" for her continuing work at Interval House. In the Courant's interview, Joanne reflected on her passion for her work at Interval House: "We make the community aware. We save lives. We educate. I think the best thing we've done is to change the way the police and the world look at women, abused women in particular. It's such an experience to see these women learn that they are not alone. It's enriched my life; it's kept my life from being trivialized. It makes you appreciate what you have." Joanne was predeceased by her parents, sister Jeanine, and her husband of 55 years, Corky. Ms. Coursey is survived by her five sons: Jerry J. Coursey III and his wife Mary Griffin of Silver Spring, MD; Michael J. Coursey of Bethesda, MD; Daniel P. Coursey of Orleans, MA; Martin J. Coursey and his wife Nancy of West Hartford, CT; and Charles T. Coursey and his wife Mary of West Hartford, CT. She is also survived by three nieces and three nephews. Affectionately called "Joanie" by her family, she leaves behind fourteen loving grandchildren; Connor and Ian Coursey of Silver Spring, MD; Michael Coursey, Jr. of Los Angeles, CA and Julia Coursey of Tuscaloosa, AL; Tora Coursey of Boston,

MA; Kathryn Coursey of Hartford, CT, Sheila Coursey of Ann Arbor, MI, Ryan and Taylor Coursey of West Hartford; and Charlie Coursey of Brooklyn, NY, Annie Coursey of Boston, MA, Rosie Coursey of New York, NY, and Clare and Ned Coursey of West Hartford. The Coursey Family would also like to express their deepest appreciation to Joanne's caring and compassionate aides, Karen, Patricia, Barbara, Yola and Georgia, who helped allow Joanne to stay at her home and make her last years so comfortable. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, March 19, at 10 AM in St. Patrick-St. Anthony Church, 285 Church Street, Hartford. Burial will be private. Calling hours are Sunday, March 18 from 4-7 PM at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the "Joanne K. ('85) (M'98) and Jerry J. Coursey, Jr. Scholarship Fund"(mail to University of Saint Joseph, 1678 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117) and Hartford Interval House <http://intervalhousect.org/get-involved/donate/in-tribute-donation/> or (mail check to Hartford Interval House, P.O. Box 340207, Hartford, CT 06134-0207.) Please note that the contribution is being made in memory of Joanne Kelly Coursey.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

MAR 18. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Mass of Christian Burial

MAR 19. 10:00 AM (ET)

St Patrick St Anthony Church
285 Church St
Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Dear Chuck and family: We are so very sorry for your loss. Keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Jonas and Helen Steiner

Jonas Steiner - March 18, 2018 at 01:48 PM



“ Lily and Rose Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of Joanne C. Coursey.



March 17, 2018 at 01:29 PM

PM

“ On behalf of all the Murphys, I want to send our thoughts and prayers to the Coursey family. I will always remember your mother's kindness and love.

Patrick Murphy

Patrick Murphy - March 17, 2018 at 12:30 PM

MS

“ Chuck and Mary,

My deepest condolences. I did not know your mother, but what a remarkable woman. She gave the most precious commodity to so many---her time, energy, and compassion---and made a difference in so many people's lives. She lives on through her children and grandchildren as a role model.

Mark Steiner - March 16, 2018 at 12:38 PM

DL

“ Dear Coursey family,

Susan and I send our sincere condolences. We will be in Florida but our thoughts and prayers are with you.

The Lemkuils

Dave Lemkuil - March 16, 2018 at 09:16 AM

AB

“ We are very sorry to hear about your mom's passing. Our deepest condolences.

Alan & Peggy Blume

alan blume - March 16, 2018 at 06:29 AM

GG

“ Joanne was a rock to women who needed help and support. As a former Board member of Interval House from 2000 on, I can say her influence continued and the benefits of her incredible vision, commitment and work live on today. As an member of the Interval House community I speak for all the women who need support -- and those who provide it, thank you, Joanne. Thank you for a life well lived. We honor you.

Gloria Gery

NYC

Former Interval House Director, Board Chair and Volunteer

Gloria Gery - March 15, 2018 at 07:27 PM

PW

“ On behalf of President & Head of School Christian Cashman and the entire Northwest Catholic High School community, I offer our sincere condolences on the passing of Joanne Coursey. Joanne's children, Jerry '70, Michael '72, Daniel '73, and Martin, and her grandson, Ryan'13, are all valued members of the NWC community, so we mourn the loss of Joanne along with all who loved her.

Please know that your family is in our prayers and that Joanne will be remembered in a special way at our next school-wide Mass in April.

*We are very sorry for your loss.
Patricia Walsh
NWC Dir. of Advancement*

Patricia Walsh - March 15, 2018 at 01:26 PM

KM

“ *To the Coursey Family:*

I just heard the news from the CML underground. So sorry to hear about your mom's passing. Please know that the Mullane Family has you in our prayers.

Kevin, Linda, Gerry, Brenda, and Denise

Kevin Mullane - March 15, 2018 at 11:59 AM

CH

“ *Dear Marty and Coursey family, your Mom & Dad were stellar examples of a life well lived. We can only hope to learn from their example. It is clearly reflected in their children.*

*Prayerful best wishes,
Charley & Karen Herbert*

Charley Herbert - March 15, 2018 at 07:11 AM