



## Kei Thermer

December 8, 1923 - September 4, 2021

Keisnedora “Kei” “Jo” Radkevicz Thermer, age 97, USMC veteran and member of the greatest generation, passed into eternal life on Saturday, September 4, 2021 at home in West Hartford – formerly of Waterbury. Kei was born in Hartford on December 8, 1923 to Joseph Radkevicz and Jadwiga Refkowski Radkevicz. She grew up in New Britain and Hartford and graduated from Hartford Public High School. During World War II, she entered service in the USMC in July of 1944 and was honorably discharged in April of 1946 at the rank of Corporal. During her service time she completed a metalsmith school – a real life Rosie-the-Riveter.

During the war years, she met the love of her life, another Marine, in a train station in New York City. After the war, Kei returned to Connecticut and settled in Waterbury where she and her love raised 3 children. She was predeceased by that amazing man, Clifford W. Thermer, in 1992.

Kei was a member of Our Lady of Loreto Church in Waterbury and All Saints Episcopal Church in Oakville. Kei was a graduate of Mattatuck Community College in Waterbury and worked as a Licensed Practical Nurse for many years at Whitewood Manor Nursing Home in Waterbury. She loved working with the elderly clients in their later and final years. She also loved working in her garden and of course, loved her family.

Kei leaves behind her children, Victoria Stirk and her husband Richard of Thomaston; her son Charles “Chip” Thermer and his partner Katherine Barton of Watertown, and her son Clifford Eric Thermer and his wife Cathryn of West

Hartford. She also leaves ten grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren: Rebecca Hamilton and her partner Christopher Mills of Waterbury and her children Reece and Rudy; Benjamin "Ben" Stirk of Thomaston and his son Zachary of Bristol; Nathan Thermer and his wife Kathleen of Bristol and their children Hannah and Jake, and Carlos "CJ" Cadena and Tyler Conroy who predeceased her; Caleb Thermer of Watertown; Sarah Smith of Evansville, IN.; Joshua Thermer of Oxford; Emma Thermer of Watertown; and Grace Thermer of New Milford; Sara Thermer and her partner Glen Neville of New York City, and Jesse Thermer of Rindge, New Hampshire. She also leaves behind several nieces and nephews and in particular, her niece Donna Sypniewski of Lakeworth, FL. Kei was predeceased by her sister Helen Fabiano of Waterbury.

We gratefully thank the Veterans Administration without whose support Kei would not have been able to remain at home until her final assignment. We would also like to thank the dozens of home care providers that helped Kei keep her independence into her 90's! We would especially like to thank Lydia Jimenez of Connecticut Community Care; the amazing nurses from Masonic Care Hospice, Beata Baj of From the Heart Homecare, and Camille Gardener, Wilhelmina Wilson and Taneisha Reid from Care for You Home Care for the first class care they provided to Kei in her last few years. Without these wonderful women, we could not have kept Kei at home where she belonged. They are the exemplar of homecare and compassion.

In lieu of flowers, Kei may be remembered with contributions to the CSPAA Educational Foundation 285 Preston Avenue Meriden, CT. 06450 or make a tribute contribution to Semper Fi & America's Fund at [www.thefund.org](http://www.thefund.org).

Funeral services will be held Monday, Sept 13 at 10:00 am at St. Timothy Church 1116 North Main Street West Hartford. Burial will be in Mt. St. Benedict Cemetery 1 Cottage Grove Road Bloomfield. Relatives and friends may call at Molloy Funeral Home 906 Farmington Ave West Hartford on Sunday from 6 – 8 pm.



# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

SEP **12.** 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

SEP **13.** 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Timothy  
1116 North Main St  
West Hartford, CT 06117  
(860) 233-5131

# Tribute Wall

ES

“ Sincere condolences from the members of the Women Marines Association. “If the Army and the Navy ever looked on Heaven’s Scenes, they will find the streets are guarded by United States Marines.” (3rd stanza of the Marines Hymn). Take comfort in knowing your beloved Marine has left this life to take up her rightful place in Heaven’s detachment.

The Women Marines Association is dedicated to preserving the history of our veterans. We continue to build a diverse collection of uniforms, photos, papers and other artifacts donated by our members and their families. If you have items you would like to know more about or would like to have your loved one memorialized by donating items to the collection, our Historian, Nancy Wilt, would be happy to speak with you. She can be reached at: Nancy Wilt, WMA Historian, Curator of the Women of the Corps Collection, PO Box 633, Hunt, TX 78024, Phone: 830-238-3893, or [niwilt@aol.com](mailto:niwilt@aol.com).

Eileen Skahill  
National Chaplain  
[Chaplain@womenmarines.org](mailto:Chaplain@womenmarines.org)

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**Eileen Skahill** - October 02, 2021 at 01:30 PM

RC

“ Cliff, my sincere condolences to you and your family. Your mom sure was an amazing woman and she certainly raised a great man. Lynn and I are keeping you and your family in our prayers. With deepest sympathy,  
Ralph and Lynn Carpenter

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**Ralph Carpenter** - September 16, 2021 at 08:09 AM

JM

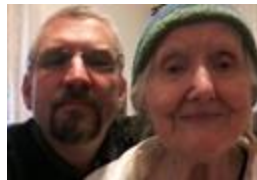
“ Dear Vicki:  
We were all very sorry to learn of your Mother's passing. The posted notice of a life well-lived serves as a wonderful tribute to her roles as wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, and we are grateful for her service to our country during the dark days of World War 2. We hope that the many messages of sympathy posted on the Molloy website will give comfort and strength to you and your extended family. The McLeod Clan offers to you, Rich, Becca, Ben and your grands our deepest sympathy and love during this difficult journey. We send you many virtual hugs and hope to you soon.  
Love  
Janet

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**Janet McLeod** - September 09, 2021 at 06:16 PM

SA

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Sara** - September 09, 2021 at 11:28 AM

HP

“ I am Holly Paternoster from All Saints Episcopal Church in Oakville. Many years ago I visited Kei at her home in Waterbury. They were always memorable visits as she loved to talk and was interesting to hear her stories. I am so glad she was able to live out her years at home with family. What a wonderful gift for her. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Sincerely, Holly

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**Holly Paternoster** - September 09, 2021 at 09:42 AM

MS

“ My condolences to her family. She was a great lady. 🙌

Michael N. Smith - September 08, 2021 at 01:32 PM

HK

“ Cliff, Cathy and family ~ my condolences on the passing of your mom! There is no one like her! Definitely unique and through our conversations, one to not give in. My thoughts and prayers to you all. She is now at peace. God has her from here. Blessings! John, Holly and Abigail



Holly King - September 07, 2021 at 10:24 PM

CM

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Murphy

Cynthia Murphy - September 07, 2021 at 02:34 PM

RH

“ Deacon Thermer and family please accept our sincere sympathy on the passing of your mother. She will be remembered in our prayers. May She Rest in Peace! Sincerely, Deacon and Mrs Bob Hilliard

Robert Hilliard - September 07, 2021 at 01:27 PM



“ I have so many great memories spending hot summer days with Grandma Kei in her little house on the corner as a kid. The whole family and all the cousins would meet up to pick blueberries in the backyard while also stuffing our mouths from right off the bush! We'd pick a big bowl for Grandma and bring it up to her on the back deck where she'd be sitting in her big floppy hat and massive goggle like dark sunglasses, her hair in long, white, wispy braids trailing down her shoulders. 💙

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**Emma Smith** - September 07, 2021 at 10:37 AM



“ Cliff, my condolences on the loss of your mother. Sounds like a fantastic person . gary J. Knapik

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**GaryJ. Knapik** - September 07, 2021 at 09:50 AM



“ My condolences to your family. Thanks to your family for allowing us to make such a small yet important contribution to Kei's life. Mr Cliff T. you loved your mom, and accepted nothing but the best for her, I truly respect you for that. May her soul Rest In Peace. God bless your family.

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**Camille Gardener (Care For You Home Care** - September 06, 2021 at 10:11 PM



“ Cliff I am so sorry to hear about the loss of your mom. She was quite a woman, just like her son. I shall remember her and your family in my prayers.

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**Bob Tolomeo** - September 06, 2021 at 08:18 PM

DS

“ *The loss of my Aunt Jo is major. She was my other mother growing up. We were kindred spirits and I spent more time with her than in my own home. She was super intelligent and funny and we had many years of memories together. She was 17 when I was born and she helped raise the four Fabiano kids. My cousins were lucky to have a mom who marched to her own tune and made live very interesting. She is with my Uncle Cliff now. It was a life well lived.*

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**Donna Fabiano Sypniewski** - September 06, 2021 at 04:19 PM

SS

“ *Kei... You will always remain close to my heart, and remembered on our shared birthdays. Thank you for being my example of an extraordinary woman! Many, many fond memories of Cliff and you in the kitchen of you're home, how you loved a celebration of any kind, as well as a good long dialogue or debate. So many things I've learned from you that I've carried through to today. Thank you for being such an important part of mine and Caleb's life...you are our hero! See you again in heaven Kei, Jesus love on you till then.*

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**Shelly Stuever** - September 06, 2021 at 03:13 PM

JL

“ *Cliff and Family, sorry for your loss and prayers for you and your family. Semper Fidelis, Kei!*  
*John Lowrey*

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**John Lowrey** - September 06, 2021 at 02:54 PM

JD

“ Cliff, I didn't have the opportunity to meet your mother, but I certainly know that she raised a remarkable son. I have no doubt that you made her very proud and happy, day after day. Please accept my sympathy.

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**John Danaher** - September 06, 2021 at 02:10 PM

CM

“ Cliff my sincere condolences and prayers for the loss of your mother. Memories of her will last forever and may she rest in internal peace

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**Charles McIntyre** - September 06, 2021 at 12:46 PM

VM

“ Ciff and the Thermer Family, my sincere condolences to you at this time, you are in my thoughts and prayers. May GOD BLESS you.

*Vincent E. McSweeney  
CSP, Ret.*

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**Vincent E. McSweeney** - September 06, 2021 at 12:33 PM

CT

“Where do I begin lol...my grandma keisenadora ( I think that's the full spelling) was an adventurer, a mother, grandmother, and overall so incredible that she left an impact on most people that met her. I was a lucky one to have spent a lot of my youth with her and I have many fond memories like trying to feed a squirrel and getting my finger nibbled cause he thought it was a peanut, or going to kmart and me being the spazzy kid running forward, tripping, and now I have a huge scar on my ring finger from the door opening on it 🤢. Yes I am also an adventurer thanks to my grandma. I was very happy also, because the last time we spoke to each other we were watching a random football game and we were talking about these things and laughing. It was awesome to have those 30 minutes alone with her again, and I'll never forget that. I'm glad your not in pain anymore and I know you will always have my back at this point on. Thank you to everyone and we love you gramma k💕👑

Caleb Thermer - September 06, 2021 at 10:33 AM

SS

Great memories last a lifetime Caleb, I love you, Mom

Shelly Stuever - September 06, 2021 at 03:16 PM

MD

Deacon Thermer, Please accept my deepest condolences on the passing of your Mother. She lived a complete life.  
Sincerely, Michael DeConti

Michael DeConti - September 07, 2021 at 09:22 AM

CE

My sincere condolences to the entire Thermer family on the passing of your dear mother. Sincerely, Catherine Erik-Soussi

Catherine Erik-Soussi, EdD - September 08, 2021 at 12:51 PM

TS

Cliff & Chip, my condolences to the family.

Terrence Simon - September 09, 2021 at 11:02 AM