



Marge Louise Gelinias

August 28, 1922 - July 2, 2014

Marguerite “Marge” Louise (Barry) Gelinias of West Hartford died peacefully on July 2, 2014 after an incredibly fulfilling 91 years of life. She was particularly proud of the fact that she had lived longer than anyone in her entire family history. Marge was the daughter of Richard and Marguerite (Rice) Barry and was born on August 28, 1922 in Boston, MA. She maintained her heavy Bostonian accent throughout her life despite moving to CT when she was in her early twenties. She married Donald Louis Gelinias on October 6, 1951 and together they enjoyed more than 41 years together raising a family in North Haven, CT. Don predeceased her on July 4, 1993. She was also predeceased by an infant son Donald Thomas John. She was also predeceased by her sister Dorothy McQuaid and brothers Garrett Barry and Richard Barry. She is survived by her children and their spouses Mark Gelinias and wife Betsy (Wyatt) of Waterford, CT; Margaret Morey and husband Bill of Cromwell, CT and Christopher Gelinias and wife Ann (Mason) of West Hartford, CT. She is also survived by her grandchildren Morgan Gelinias, Taylor Gelinias, Makayla Gelinias, Matthew Gelinias. She is also survived by 7 great grandchildren. Marge achieved her Bachelors and Masters degrees in Social Work from Simmons College in Boston MA and moved to New Haven where she worked at Yale-New Haven Hospital in the 1940’s - back when working professional women were not in vogue. She met her future husband, Don, while working in New Haven. She would often ride the trolley in the evening up Whitney Avenue to North Haven where Don would meet her at the bottom of Wayland

St. with a lighted candle to escort her to his house. They eventually married and she put her Social Work career on hold to raise her children. While raising her family she worked for Red Cross Home Service bringing servicemen home due to family emergencies during the Vietnam War. She then returned to the field of Social Work in the Branford CT school system working for another 30 years. While working in the Branford school system she was recognized in 1976 as the CT "Educator of the Year" for her advocacy for special education children. She was a voracious reader and particularly loved political and biographical works. She and her family would spend summers at Lake Beseck in Middlefield, CT where they had a cottage and she taught her children how to swim. She spent an incalculable number of hours sitting at the beach, watching them swim, and dragging them home for supper only after their lips turned blue and their skin took on the consistency of a prune. She had a strong sense of service to others and crocheted more than 200 afghan blankets for the Birthright Organization which provided them to new mothers. She will be sadly missed by her family and the community. Visiting hours will be from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. on Monday July 7, 2014 at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave, West Hartford, CT followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m. in St. Thomas the Apostle Church, 872 Farmington Ave, West Hartford, CT. Burial will be private at St. Mary's Cemetery, 3126 Whitney Ave, Hamden, CT where she will rest alongside her husband and infant son. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Operation Smile, or Special Olympics of CT.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

JUL 7. 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM (ET)

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

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL 7. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle Church
872 Farmington Ave.
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 233-8269

Tribute Wall

AG

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



Ann Gelinias - July 14, 2014 at 12:30 AM

BR

“ please know my thoughts and prayers go out to Marge and family and friends. I have a special needs daughter who was greatly influenced by all that Marge brought to the special moms and children. She gave those moms inspiration to guide their kids to further themselves in recreation and started our children in Special Olympics. She was a person who supported and guided us moms when we thought those road blocks might be too much. We all thank her for being there for us. She will never know some of the people who went into specialties because of her. She was a guiding light to the high school students, special moms and their very precious children. Words can't express all that she has done for so many. God bless Marge. Most sincerely, Bobbi Piontek Racette

Barbara Piontek Racette - July 12, 2014 at 09:49 AM

SG

“ Although it has been many, many years since we have seen you, your mother's death evoked many childhood memories of all of you that my brothers, sister, and I have been recalling and sharing. I remember Marge particularly as a woman of deep faith and prayer. She was also a very faithful and compassionate friend to my mother. Know of my sympathy and prayers for all of you.

Sr. Mary Grace Giaimo

Sr. Mary Grace Giaimo - July 11, 2014 at 07:52 AM

PR

“ Marge was my aunt and my role model throughout my life. She made me the person I am today. We shared many wonderful memories. As a impressionable young preteen, I would travel down to Connecticut on a bus and Don would meet me in Conn. I would spend the week there. This occurred for several years. When I became engaged, I couldn't wait for my soon to be husband meet my favorite aunt. He enjoyed talking to her as much as I did. She was a rebel before her time and I am forever grateful. I, too, am a bit of a rebel in that I can stand up for myself and not be pushed around. I am so glad that she had a chance to meet my beloved granddaughter, Delaney
God Bless. You will remain in my heart always.
Love,
Pat

Pat Ryan - July 08, 2014 at 09:42 AM

DB

“ Mark, Betsy, Morgan and Taylor
Our thoughts and prayers are with you today. We are sad for your loss.
The Berg Family

Deb Berg - July 07, 2014 at 06:45 AM

KC

“ *Mark and Family,
I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you at
this sorrowful time.*
Kathy Cabral

Kathy Cabral - July 05, 2014 at 12:01 PM



“ *Blooming Garden Basket was purchased for the
family of Marge Louise Gelinis.*



July 05, 2014 at 09:20 AM

“ As you come into my room to care for me, please take a moment to hear about the wonderful life I’ve lived – including the kindness you’ve shown me today – for which I am grateful.

My name is Marguerite Louise Gelinas my friends call me Marge so call me Marge.

Born in 1922 in Boston, Massachusetts, I am a child of the Great Depression. It was a time when family, good friends and our faith in God ruled the day. It is the basis of who I am.

My parents were honest and hard-working, without a lot of extra’s 2nd generation Irish-Americans - who believed in the importance of hard work, education, and humility. You will notice these same traits deeply rooted in my 3 children when you meet them and in their children as well.....

I was married to my loving husband Don for over 41 years before God called him home on July 4th, 1993. We celebrated the good times together and enjoyed our lives, providing a safe, wholesome home to raise our children. Don and I stood side-by-side during the difficult times of life, including the loss of an infant son, a battle Don won with cancer, and of course, the teenage years of our 3 children. We raised a wonderful family who you will see by my side during my final journey.

I’m a bit of a Rebel, which makes people chuckle seeing me now, ... but I cannot be pushed or dissuaded. To say the least, I am determined.... Especially in the defense of others. I have lived on my own – independently until this very year at the age of 91.

As a young woman, I paid my own way through college by working. I earned a Masters Degree in Social Work in 1946, back when women just didn’t do that..... I cannot be dissuaded.

During my life I worked as a Social Worker/ patient advocate at

Yale-New Haven Hospital fighting for patient care.

Later, as a Social Worker for the Branford, CT school system for 30 years, I counseled young children finding their way through adolescence, and other challenging times in their lives.

I found joy working in the Special Education field, and was instrumental in getting Special Needs children out of the institutions and into the main-stream schools in the 1970's. My entire family volunteered their time on the weekends to support our programs.

In 1976 I was voted "Educator of The Year" for the State of Connecticut for work in Special Education.

During the Vietnam War, I worked nights and weekends for the American Red-Cross supporting families trying to locate their sons overseas during a time of family crisis at home. It was my job to find the young soldiers and bring them home despite military objection..... I am determined.

I've been blessed to see my children grow into adulthood and the joy their families have brought them as they watch their children and grandchildren develop and grow.

In my later years my family has always kept me included and I have never felt alone. I am a very lucky lady.

During my time I have seen the world change in many ways. Here are just a few:

The Great Depression

The Transition from Horse-drawn carriage to cars

The transition from Gas-lit street lamps – to electric street lights

*The Bombing of Pearl Harbor and the joy of the end of World War II
The discovery of Penicillin
The First Man on the Moon
The tragedy of the loss of John F. Kennedy
I followed the teachings of Dr. Martin Luther King and mourned his
loss with the nation
The invention of the microwave oven
The first unmanned landing on Mars
The invention of the Personal Computer
The I-Phone
And the Red Sox winning the World Series*

*I had hoped to see the cure for Cancer and pray it is not far behind
me.*

So you see, mine is a life of celebration

*I am surrounded by family and the kindness of others, and could not
ask for anything more as I enter the final stages of my journey
home.*

My name is Marge

Chris Molloy - July 03, 2014 at 01:57 PM



*Meg. This very moving. Your mom is extremely special. Prayers from
dee and puppy prayers from da doxie boyz, mister Farley and von
streudel*

Dee Smith - July 03, 2014 at 09:55 PM