



## Mary Ellen O'Connor Higgison

May 29, 2024

Mary Ellen, age 94, peacefully passed away on Wednesday 5-29-2024 surrounded by family at her home at the McAuley in West Hartford, Ct. Mary Ellen was the wife of the late Edward Higgison and prior to that the late Robert O'Connor. She was the proud and loving mother of six children: Kathie (Phillip) Grzewinski, Patricia O'Connor, John (Carol) O'Connor, Eileen (James ) Clinton, Mary (Dave) Woods, and Julie O'Connor.

MaryEllen was the eldest daughter of the late Clarence and Julia Kreuz of Belmont, MA.

She was sister to the late Peggy Mosychuk of Dedham MA and the late Carol Sheehan of Dallas, TX. Mary Ellen was a dedicated and loving grandmother of 10 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. She attended high school at the Holy Rosary Academy in Watertown, MA where she graduated with honors in 1947. She then went on to attend Emmanuel College for two years before transferring to Marquette University, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was at Marquette that Mary Ellen met Robert O'Connor, the first love of her life, whom she married upon graduation. Mary Ellen and Robert (Bob), raised 6 children together and had a wonderful 25 year marriage before Bob's untimely death in 1977. Shortly after Mary Ellen met Ed Higgison, the 2nd love of her life, she enjoyed a 40 year marriage filled with happiness prior to Ed's passing in 2018.

Mary Ellen loved the outdoors and in particular biking, walking and swimming.

She loved the ocean and her summers in Falmouth, Cape Cod and lived a very active life until she was 92 years old.

Mary Ellen committed her life to volunteerism. A few of the many organizations she served were the Community Outreach Committee at McAuley, the PEO Sisterhood, Hartford Hospital, Meals on Wheels, House of Bread, the Cancer Society, and many others including regular visits to the elderly.

She was also a person of great faith. Mary Ellen was a Eucharistic minister at St Thomas the Apostle Church in West Hartford, where she led and sat on the Parish Council for many years. She was also very active in the Church's Women's Club and was an advocate for women serving the church in many ways during her lifetime.

Mary Ellen will always be remembered as a kind, compassionate woman who cared deeply for others. She was a friend to many and always put the needs of others first. She was a life long learner and was open to new perspectives and change. She was a tireless advocate for peace in the world and in our communities and spent much of her time attending multi-denominational services to learn more about other religions. She often stated that her children and grandchildren kept her young and informed by sharing their lives with her. Mary Ellen leaves a legacy of love, forgiveness, empathy and laughter with not only her family, but also with all her close friends.

Visitation hours will be held on Tuesday, June 4th at Molloy Funeral Home 906 Farmington Ave. West Hartford, CT from 4-6 PM. A funeral mass will be held on Wednesday June 5th at 10:00 AM at St Thomas the Apostle Church 872 Farmington Ave in West Hartford. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution in Mary Ellen's name to one of the organizations listed above. Directions and online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)



# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JUN 4. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

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

## Mass of Christian Burial

JUN 5. 10:00 AM (ET)

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

# Tribute Wall

EE

“ Dear Julie and family, I was very sad to learn of your Mom’s passing. I will always remember her as sweet, kind, considerate and easy to talk to! You are all in my thoughts and prayers!

Love, Erin (O’Brien) Earley

Erin O’Brien Earley - June 05, 2024 at 01:09 PM

TF

“ The Trenchard Family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mary Ellen O’Connor Higgison.



The Trenchard Family - June 03, 2024 at 09:02 PM

R/

“ Rich/ Jenn, Ellen/ Dave, Jean /Jim purchased the Beautiful Dreams for the family of Mary Ellen O’Connor Higgison.



Rich/ Jenn, Ellen/ Dave, Jean /Jim - June 02, 2024 at 03:36 PM

R/

“ Rich/ Jenn, Ellen/ Dave, Jean /Jim planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ellen O’Connor Higgison.

Rich/ Jenn, Ellen/ Dave, Jean /Jim - June 02, 2024 at 03:36 PM

AF

“ Dear Family,  
Mary Ellen was the warmest of the warm. She opened her arms to all and enjoyed a good conversation. Sorry we didn't know you earlier.

Allen Freshler - June 02, 2024 at 02:25 PM

RH

“ Robert H. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ellen O'Connor Higgison.

Robert H. - June 02, 2024 at 02:14 PM

JS

“ It is a privilege to honor Mary Ellen's life. Jack Sipple

Jack Sipple - June 01, 2024 at 01:11 PM

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“ -- purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Mary Ellen O'Connor Higgison.



-- - June 01, 2024 at 12:14 PM

MS

“ Our condolences to MaryEllen's Family & Friends.  
My mind and heart are flooded with memories of  
Your very special Mom. May MaryEllen Rest In Peace. Love, Mary  
Margaret Conran Smith

Mary Conran Smith - June 01, 2024 at 11:49 AM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen O'Connor Higgison.*



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June 01, 2024 at 10:20 AM



“ *Ann, Fr. Nick and Joseph Stano planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ellen O'Connor Higgison.*

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**Ann, Fr. Nick and Joseph Stano** - June 01, 2024 at 10:20 AM



“ *To Mary Ellen's Family,  
Our heartfelt condolences on Mary Ellen's passing.  
She was an elegant presence in our Parish. She always had a  
pleasant smile and warm welcome for everyone.  
Sincerely, Michael and Kathy DeConti*

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**Michael DeConti** - June 01, 2024 at 09:20 AM



“ *Eileen and her sibs were lucky to have such an amazing mother.  
Eileen, it is apparent that she was your role model given the way  
you have lived your life in service to others. We are so glad that we  
are family together. Love, Mary and Bill Clinton*

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**Mary & Bill Clinton** - June 01, 2024 at 09:10 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mary Ellen O'Connor Higgison.*



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May 31, 2024 at 03:13 PM



“ *Bruce/Michelle Mikail/Philip Sharon/LJ planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Mary Ellen O'Connor Higgison.*

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**Bruce/Michelle Mikail/Philip Sharon/LJ** - May 31, 2024 at 03:13 PM