



Mary Naomi (Hromadka) McGovern Borrromeey

September 23, 2025

On September 23, 2025, our mother, Mary Naomi (Hromadka) McGovern Borrromeey, passed away comfortably in her home, in her bed, and surrounded by family. She was 99 years old and lived a full and meaningful life filled with love and family. Affectionately called "Sis" by her family, to everyone else she was known as Naomi.

She was born in Baltimore on February 1, 1926, to Josephine and Matthew Hromadka. Along with her brother, Gene, her entire youth was spent in the loving embrace of the Czech community of St Wenceslaus Parish surrounded by family, friends, church and school. Her family was musical. She was a mezzo soprano with a beautiful voice and loved to sing all of her life.

An outstanding student, Naomi attended the College of Notre Dame - Baltimore and was the first in her extended family to graduate college. She won a scholarship to do graduate work at Georgetown University where she earned a Masters degree and PhD in biochemistry. When she graduated in 1951, she was, at the time, the youngest woman to ever earn a PhD from Georgetown.

In 1949, while in the library (where else?), she bumped into Joseph J McGovern, Jr. MD, when he approached her and asked: "excuse me, but may I have one of your Lifesavers candies?" They were married in 1950, and

shortly thereafter moved to Boston. Together, over the next 10 years, they had five children together: Joe, Gerard, Marcia, Ann and John.

In 1965, while living in Sudbury, MA they divorced, and for the next 10 years, mom single handedly worked and raised five kids. These were lean and hard years but she held the whole thing together through grit, determination and love.

In the early 1970's, while working full time and raising her family, mom went to night school and got a Master's Degree in Education, and as a result of this she landed her dream job: high school guidance counselor at Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. In some ways, being a good high school guidance counselor is much like being a good mother. A great guidance counselor is someone who listens, advises and gently guides a young person along the best course. She was a great guidance counselor.

In the summer of 1978, while picking strawberries at Mahoney's Farm in Sudbury, mom bumped into and shared strawberries with the man who turned out to be the love of her life: Romeo J. Borromey, also of Sudbury. Her kids all grown and out on their own, they were married in July 1979. For the next 13 years Naomi and Rom shared some of their happiest years together. Theirs was a marriage defined by kindness, consideration and love for each other: A truly happy marriage.

After Rom passed away, mom eventually moved to Connecticut to live with her son John and daughter-in-law, Zhou Yu-Hui. For the next 25 years, they lived together in both Wolcott and West Hartford, CT. During this time, she was surrounded by family with frequent gatherings both large and small. During this time she also spent the winters in St Petersburg FL with her Hromadka cousins. These times were filled with happiness.

Mom's life was truly blessed. It was long, it was healthy, and it was filled with loving family, and this is what she cherished most.

She is survived by her children: Joe, Gerard, Marcia, Ann & John. By in-laws: Brenda McGovern, Zhou Yu-Hui, and Duc MacAdam. By her eight grandchildren: Toby, Ben, Andrea, Sarah, Rhys, Griffin, Chelsea and Leah. And by five great grandchildren: Lenny, Thomas, Maddox, Miles, and Colson.

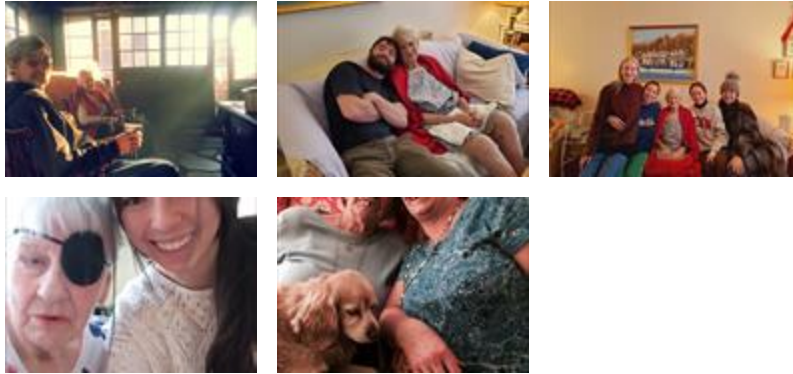
She will be interred with Rom at Arlington National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Notre Dame of Maryland University, "Financial Aid and Scholarship Fund"

Tribute Wall

LM

“ I feel so lucky to have gotten to spend so much time with Gramsies. I will miss her presence deeply. Love you



Leah McGovern - September 27, 2025 at 04:39 PM

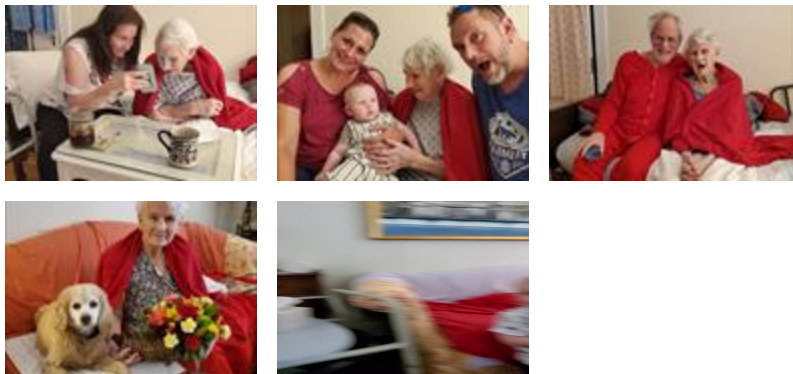
GS

Naomi was an impressive woman that I both liked and respected. I am sorry for your loss.

Greg Stewart - September 28, 2025 at 07:00 PM

JM

“ 19 files added to the album Memories Album



John McGovern - September 27, 2025 at 11:24 AM

LH

What a wonderful lady. I will miss you very much Aunt Sis. God bless the MCGovern family.

Linda Hromadka - September 30, 2025 at 10:08 AM

JM

“ 1 file added to the album *Memories Album*



John McGovern - September 26, 2025 at 01:55 PM

JM

Warning

*When I am an old woman I shall wear purple
With a red hat which does not suit me.
And I shall spend my pension on brandy and summer gloves
and satin sandals, and say we have no money for butter.
I shall sit down on the pavement when I'm tired
And gobble up samples in shops and press alarm bells
And run my stick along public railings
And make up for the sobriety of my youth.
I shall go out in my slippers in the rain
And pick the flowers in other people's gardens
And learn to spit.*

*You can wear terrible shirts and grow more fat
And eat three pounds of sausage at a go
Or only bread and pickle for a week
And hoard pens and pencils and beer mats and things in boxes.*

*But now we must have clothes that keep us dry
And pay our rent and not swear in the street
And set a good example for the children.
We must have friends to dinner and read the papers.*

*But maybe I ought to practice a little now?
So people who know me are not too shocked and surprised
When suddenly I am old, and start to wear purple.*

John McGovern - September 26, 2025 at 05:57 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John McGovern - September 26, 2025 at 12:59 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Molloy Funeral Home - September 26, 2025 at 12:38 PM