



## Polly Merritt O'Leary

July 12, 2014

Polly (Merritt) O'Leary, 72, of Framingham, MA passed away peacefully, surrounded by friends and family on July 12, 2014. She was born on September 10, 1941 in Hartford Connecticut, the daughter of the late Philip J. and Mary (Skeats) Merritt. Polly graduated from Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA and worked for the Phoenix Companies; Lockwood, Dipple & Green; Equitable and AXA Insurance. Since she was a young girl, Polly spent much of her summers on her beloved Martha's Vineyard. She loved watching her favorite golf or tennis pro on TV as well as the New England Patriots and you would often hearing Polly cheer them on or groan with displeasure. A loving and generous mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, Polly enjoyed spending time with her family and particularly looked forward to her family Thanksgiving celebrations and making Christmas cookies every year first with her children as they were growing up and now with her grandchildren. Playing mah jongh and going out to dinner with friends were typical weekly activities as well as doting on her constant companion, Reilly. She is survived by her son, Peter Thalheimer, his wife Beth, and their children Sean, Kylie and Chase, her daughter, Kristi Davin, her Partner Bruce Sanders and her children Jack and Danny; her stepsons Kevin O'Leary, his wife Jennifer and their child, Conor, and Michael O'Leary, his wife Katie and their children Ryan and Rachel. She is also survived by her brothers Michael Merritt and his wife Claire, Tucker Merritt, his wife Donna, and her sister, Susan Robertson, her long-time friend Trish O'Leary, her beloved companion

Reilly and many nieces and nephews. The funeral will be Thursday at 10:00 a.m. at the First Church of Christ Congregational, 12 South Main St., West Hartford. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. Calling hours are Wednesday from 4-7 p.m. at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. Donations in her memory may be made to vest-a-dog at [www.mavestadog.org](http://www.mavestadog.org), PO Box 48 Walpole, MA 02081 or the American Lung Assoc at [www.lung.org/donate](http://www.lung.org/donate). Online expressions of sympathy may be made at [www.molloyfuneralhome.com](http://www.molloyfuneralhome.com)

# Cemetery Details

## Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.  
West Hartford, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling Hours

JUL 16. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

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

## Funeral Service

JUL 17. 10:00 AM (ET)

First Church of Christ Congregational  
12 South Main Street  
West Hartford, CT

# Tribute Wall

CW

“ *Peter and Kristi - sending lots of hugs and prayers to you. I remember so many fun and fond memories of your mom from our early Vineyard days. Wishing you strength during these tough times. Hugs to you.*

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**Connie Wilson** - July 17, 2014 at 02:12 PM

PT

*Thanks Connie. It has been a while, I hope you are doing well. Give your family our best!*

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**Pete T** - July 27, 2014 at 10:53 AM

JB

“ *With you in spirit.....*

*Judy Brady  
Acosta Sales and Marketing*

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**Judy Brady** - July 16, 2014 at 02:48 PM

DW

“ I was so shocked and sorry to hear about Polly. We had exchanged emails and phone calls just a few weeks ago, and the church had been praying for her as she recovered from her hospitalization last winter.

*Polly was a wonderful woman and a terrific Deaconess and member of the Flower Guild here at Trinitarian Congregational Church in Wayland, MA.*

*I know she was looking forward to the move to Grafton, but not the thought of having to pack up and sell her house in Framingham.*

*We will miss her,*

*Sincerely,  
Debbie Wilson*

*Church Administrator  
Trinitarian Congregational Church  
Wayland, MA  
508-358-7717*

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**Debora Wilson** - July 16, 2014 at 12:18 PM

PT

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Pete T - July 15, 2014 at 09:27 PM

PT

*Some pictures of Mom on the Vineyard, our families and her grandchildren. Also Reilly and family gatherings for Thanksgiving.*

Pete T - July 15, 2014 at 09:38 PM



“ *A Full Life was purchased for the family of Polly Merritt O'Leary.*



July 15, 2014 at 07:22 PM

TR

“ *My dear friend, fellow hell raiser and travel companion, I will miss you more than words can say. You've never been anything but kind and generous to me and my family. Godspeed my good friend. Keep an eye out for me until I see you on the other side.*

Trish - July 15, 2014 at 05:47 PM

TR

“ Dear Oxford Alum, I am a friend of Polly's. I would help her out periodically. She was ADAMANT that I mail the letters requesting donations by the due date this year. You all were all very important to her.

Trish - July 15, 2014 at 05:43 PM

ZO

“ ZOOTS purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Polly Merritt O'Leary.



ZOOTS - July 15, 2014 at 05:41 PM

JH

“ Dear Family of Polly Merritt O'Leary: My name is Joan Huyghue. I am the daughter of Lillian Lee of Hartford. Lillian passed away in Nov. 2008. My mom worked for Polly's parents and was very close to Mary Merritt Barnard. She helped raise Polly and her siblings and talked about them all the time. Polly kept in touch with my mom before she passed away and attended her funeral. I want to send my deepest sympathy to Polly's family. I left my phone number with the Molloy Funeral Home for Michael, Tucker and Susan. I would like to send a card to the family. Please call with an address or phone number. Again, me and my siblings are so sorry. Our love to the family. Joan Huyghue

Joan Huyghue - July 15, 2014 at 02:38 PM

PE

Joan, I am Polly's son and I remember Lillian fondly from my childhood. Thank you for the thoughts, your mom was a wonderful lady. - Peter

Peter - July 16, 2014 at 05:28 AM

SH

“ ALL of Polly's Oxford classmates are I am sure just as sad as I am to learn of her passing. I and many others were so lucky to have spent time with her at our 50th reunion. I send my deepest sympathies to her children and grandchildren. She was always so much fun to be with and a lover of life. Everyone in our class liked Polly for this reason. Our love to you all. Sue McClure Harris

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**susan mcclure harris** - July 15, 2014 at 12:55 PM



“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Polly Merritt O'Leary.



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July 15, 2014 at 12:17 PM

KD

“ Dear family of Polly Merritt O'Leary,  
Thanks to our Oxford '59 classmate, Zelig Calvocaressi for sharing this sad news. It was great seeing Polly looking so great at our 50th, and hearing from her on occasion afterwards. Just reading about her love of dogs makes me want to share with you a fond memory of LONG ago. Polly and I go way back!  
We used to play together after kindergarten, and as I was playing at your (Merritt) house on Farmington Avenue, Star arrived. He was as small as a little teddy bear! For those that didn't know him he grew into a huge Newfoundland retriever! What a wonderful loving dog... Most likely a root of her love of doggies.  
Love to all of you I haven't seen in years, and deepest sympathy to all of you at your loss of Polly. May your fond memories of her soon outweigh your current feelings of loss, Kathie Whitcomb Dudzinski, Ft. Collins, CO

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**Kathie Dudzinski** - July 15, 2014 at 10:48 AM



“ *Sweet Tenderness* was purchased for the family of Polly Merritt O'Leary.



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July 14, 2014 at 09:10 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Polly Merritt O'Leary.



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July 14, 2014 at 01:49 PM