



Rita Dowd

May 14, 1918 - January 25, 2005

Rita Giannettino Dowd, 86, of West Hartford, beloved wife, mother, sister and friend died peacefully at home with her loving family by her side. She was born on May 14, 1918 in Hartford, daughter of the late Louis and Rose Kelly Giannettino. She graduated in 1937 from Bulkeley High School. In 1947 she married William Dowd, sharing 53 years together until his death. She was a founding member of the Church of St. Timothy in West Hartford. She helped lead the efforts to build Eisenhower Park in West Hartford. After raising seven children, Rita at age 62 went to work full-time as an employee of the University of Hartford, retiring at the age of 80. She will be remembered by her family and friends for her loving spirit and wonderful sense of humor. She is survived by her family including son, John and his wife, Connie of West Hartford, son David and his wife Nancy Fournier of West Hartford, daughter Denise MacKenzie of Rocky Hill, daughter Rosemary and her husband Gary Martin of Granby, son Mark and his wife Richarda Hellner of Avon, daughter Elizabeth and her husband Thomas O'Shea of Windsor, and son W. Allen and his wife Judith of Wethersfield. She also leaves a sister Catherine E. Godbout of Newington; 16 grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Rita was predeceased by a brother, Louis Giannettino, and three sisters, Mary Mooney, Rose Kablik and Ruth Scott. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, January 28, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. in the Church of St. Timothy, 1116 North Main St., West Hartford. Interment will followed at St. Mary's Cemetery, Windsor Locks. Friends may call Thursday, January 27,

from 3-7 p.m. in the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. In lieu of flowers, memorial contribution may be made to VNA Healthcare H.O.P.E. Program, 103 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105 or Church of St. Timothy, 1116 North Main St. West Hartford, CT 06117. For online condolences please visit www.molloyfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“Dowd family: Bill and Rita were obviously wonderful parents and remarkable individuals, but they also enriched our neighborhood as historian and caregiver. Their sound judgment and propriety inspired all their friends and neighbors. It has been our good fortune to witness a portion of their lives, more than three decades. Our hope is that there will continue to be Dowds on Barksdale.

Allen, echoes of your magnificently poignant eulogy have reached our son and daughter in Georgia and Alaska.##imported-begin##John Lefevre##imported-end##

April 10, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“Rosemary and the Martin and Dowd families, please accept our sincerest condolences on your great loss. Losing a mother and grandmother is a very traumatic experience but know that we all are here to provide support.##imported-begin##Ritu & Peter Zazzaro##imported-end##

February 01, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“Rita was a special friend and colleague. Loved working with her at UH. She always had a twinkle in her eye and a welcoming smile. I knew that if ever we needed one person to call on for help it was Rita. She'd come thru in every instance. What a terrific lady!!! You must have great memories of her life--I know that I do.##imported-begin##Ed Weinswig##imported-end##

January 28, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Mark,
I'm sorry for your loss.
May G-d strengthen and comfort you.##imported-begin##David
Filkoff##imported-end##

January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ We know Al and Pat from hockey and we've gotten to chat a lot
about family and growing up in West HArtford only Andy grew up in
town, not Theresa.

We are so sad for your loss and know that you have lots of good
memories to call upon. Plus, now we can never drive by Norfeldt
School without thinking of your mom.

The Lerner's,

Theresa, Andy, Brett, Billy and Trey##imported-begin##Theresa and
Andy Lerner##imported-end##

January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ John and Connie, Dennis and i would like to say we are sorry for the
lose of your mother and our thoughts and prayer are with you and
your family .##imported-begin##susan dipinto##imported-end##

January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ ##imported-begin##John W Calkins##imported-end##

January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ To Rita's Family & Friends,
I was very sorry to hear of Rita's passing this week. She was a delightful person all the years that she worked here at the University of Hartford in the Registrar's Office. As a member of the faculty, it was always a warm encounter to speak with Rita, and to share our common Italian heritage, mostly about food. I pray that she is at peace.

Sincerely,

Tony Rauche##imported-begin##Anthony Rauche##imported-end##

January 27, 2005 at 12:00 AM



“ Mark and I send our sympathy to you, John and Connie, and your entire family as you deal with the loss of your beloved Mother.##imported-begin##Mark and Sheila Austin##imported-end##

January 26, 2005 at 12:00 AM