



Susan Jane O'Neill

June 14, 1935 - July 23, 2023

Susan Jane O'Neill of West Hartford, CT died on July 23, 2023, surrounded by her husband and children. She was born in Chicago, IL on June 14, 1935, the daughter of the late Daniel and Jane (Newburg) McMahon. She graduated from St. Scholastica Academy in Chicago where she was class president for her final two years and was very involved with musical and theatrical productions. She then attended Clark College (now University) in Dubuque, IA and obtained her R.N. degree from St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in Chicago where she was class president in her final year.

After obtaining her nursing degree. Sue went on a summer long student tour in Europe. J. Ward O'Neill was also on the tour. They fell in love and she accepted his marriage proposal in Salzburg, Austria after knowing each other for only 6 weeks. They married two years later when Ward graduated from college. What began as a fairy tale, improbable romance lasted for 63 years.

Sue loved nursing. She balanced her nursing capabilities with caring for her family. During her 40-year career she worked in doctors' offices, schools, hospitals and nursing homes in Chicago, Fitchburg, MA (while Ward was in the Army at Ft. Devens) on Staten Island, New York, Greenwich and Stamford, CT. Sue was also an active volunteer in community and church affairs everywhere she lived. The organizations included Covenant House in New York City, a refuge for homeless teens, Greenwich Health Association

where they lived for 23 years, and Lake Sunapee Region VNA and Hospice. Her nursing experience and empathetic nature gave her the ability to sympathize with, and give advice to, those who sought her guidance and counsel.

After she and Ward retired, they spent 20 wonderful years in New London, NH, volunteering with a number of organizations. The children and grandchildren loved coming to “Nana’s house” year round for winter and summer sports. She and her husband moved to the McAuley in West Hartford, a life care community, in 2015 to be closer to family. Sue was a terrific Wife, Mother, Nana and close friend to many. All who know Sue valued her friendship. She will be missed but not forgotten.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Ward O’Neill, children James O’Neill (Joan Skidgell) of Ridgefield, CT, Margaret O’Neill (Randall Sabia) of West Hartford, CT, Patricia (David) Smith of Riverside, CT and Daniel (Cara) O’Neill of Wilton, CT. Also 8 grandchildren – Luke, Madeline, Sophia, and Reed O’Neill, James and Joseph Sabia, and Samuel and Jack Smith. She is also survived by her sister, Patricia (Douglas) Askew of Gahanna, OH, her brother Daniel (Peggy) of Dayton, MD, her brother in law Charles (Katherine) O’Neill of Brooklyn, NY and a number of nieces and nephews.

The family wishes to thank the aides from New England Nightingales and the staff at St. Mary Home for the care provided to Sue. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on August 18 at 11 a.m. at St. Peter Claver Church, 47 Pleasant St. West Hartford. Burial will follow in Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her memory may be made to The McAuley Residents’ Association 275 Steele Rd. West Hartford, CT 06117 or The Lake Sunapee Region Visiting Nurse Association, 107 Newport Rd., New London,

NH 03257

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery

200 Whitman Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 18. 11:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Peter Claver
47 Pleasant St.
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall



“ *Molloy Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Susan Jane O'Neill*



Molloy Funeral Home - August 11, 2023 at 07:48 AM

SA

“ *Dear Ward,
I just learned today about Sue's passing when I saw her name in the Mass Intentions at OLF. I am so sorry for your loss. I have missed seeing you both at church since you moved to West Hartford. As you may remember, we met because you read to my daughter's Maggie's first grade class and then we later discovered that I grew up on the same street in West Hartford on which your daughter now lives. I hope that you are comforted by the memories of the many years of your marriage. I enjoyed reading the love story of how you met. Take good care and know that you and your family are in my prayers.*

Sue Anderson - August 27, 2023 at 10:32 AM

SA

“ *Susan, Michael & Elizabeth Anderson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Susan Jane O'Neill.*



Susan, Michael & Elizabeth Anderson - August 16, 2023 at 12:07 PM

JO

“ Ward and family, so sorry to hear of Sue’s passing. You two made wonderful neighbors and “extra grandparents “ for our children! The kids always remembered getting special treats from Sue at Halloween! We missed you both when you left New London but you will never be forgotten.

Jeff and Missy Owen - August 10, 2023 at 09:11 PM

NE

“ I worked with Susie at the Tandet Center in Stamford and unfortunately lost track of her after she left. She was a wonderful, caring, funny, compassionate person that gave the best advice, always had a listening ear and was a wonderful mentor to me. She was always so proud of her family and we spent alot of time sharing stories during that time. Thinking of you all as you grieve the loss of this very special lady. Rest in peace Sue

Nancy Eberheim - August 06, 2023 at 08:28 AM

RW

“ I was saddened to hear of Suzie’s passing. My sister Eileen and I grew up next door in Chicago. Suzie was Eileen’s best friend
May she rest in peace
Bob Ward

Robert Ward - August 03, 2023 at 03:23 PM

GP

“ Aunt Sue was very funny, smart, friendly and I always liked her. I met her when I was 10 years old. She commented on the golden highlights in my hair. I was won over in an instant! When I grew up and had the pleasure of seeing her again, I was amazed at her youthful appearance!!! So...now she's "home " and in the company of some very nice people. And someday we'll meet again ❤️!!!

Gerrie Bernacchi Pretzel - August 02, 2023 at 03:16 PM