



## Rosemary N. Shea

November 9, 1929 - January 24, 2021

Rosemary N. Shea, November 9, 1929 – January 24, 2021

On November 9, 1929 Rosemary (nee Nolan) entered into this world, the second of five children to William T. and Mary E. Nolan. In a cozy rowhome in West Philadelphia, Rosemary started her life-journey, which lasted over nine decades.

Rosemary is predeceased by her loving husband, Bill Shea, Sr. and survived by her four children including Bernadette Butera (Jay), Bill Shea, Jr. (Joanne), Patrick Shea (Kim-Marie) and Hugh Shea. She is also survived by her thirteen grandchildren including Laura Butera, Emily Butera, Kayleigh Butera, Will Butera, Patrick Shea, Christina Shea, Brendan Shea, Liam Shea, Mary Kate Shea, Michaela Shea, Colin Shea, Julianne Shea and Danny Shea. Lastly, she is survived by her siblings Bill Nolan, Jack Nolan, Eileen McConville and Kathleen Hannigan.

Rosemary grew up with her two brothers and twin sisters on Felton Street in West Philadelphia, moving to Havertown years later. The Nolan siblings were 13 years apart from oldest to youngest and as adults, settled in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Florida and Maryland. Despite this gap in age and distance, they were so close, talking with one another several times a week. They meant so much to her and she meant so much to them. Their love for one another was unassuming but evident in the way they treated each other with respect, dignity and humor.

The Nolan sisters were particularly close and became the nexus of their immediate and extended families sharing news of the next family occasion, big or small. By the time they were grandmothers, they had so effectively honed their communication skills that family news made it around the world twice while the internet was still putting on its pants. The Nolan girls were the original “Insta-Gram.”

A graduate of West Catholic Girls’ High School (1947), Rosemary grew up helping her mother take care of her twin sisters, going on long walks with her father, ice skating in

Cobbs Creek, listening to Big Band music  
and taking the bus, trolley and El to every dance imaginable with her girlfriends.

After high school, Rosemary went to work for Greyhound Bus. She took advantage of her employment by spontaneously traveling on weekends throughout the northeast and Canada. Rosemary passed along this spontaneity and love of travel to her children and grandchildren. At a time when young women were encouraged to go to work after high school, get married and start a family, Rosemary took to the road, exercising her independence and exploring the world. This aspect of her life was inspirational and aspirational, more so to her granddaughters.

In 1956, Rosemary took flight with the love of her life, Bill. Having four children between 1957 and 1961, she managed and navigated a household that never stopped. She was also her husband's equal partner in business, working together for nearly 30 years. Rosemary and Bill shared their love of Cape May Point with their children, spending magical summer vacations in a time and place that no longer exists but for the memories she helped bundle and are forever cherished. Later, they bought a charming old house in Cape May City, mere footsteps away from the warm sand and salty sea.

After her husband's passing in 1992, Rosemary was eventually blessed with thirteen grandchildren that affectionately referred to her as "Gram." Gram never missed a birthday, sacrament, recital, play, sporting event, graduation or holiday. At Christmas, she would hang thirteen stockings over her mantle, each bulging with gifts that had a special meaning for each grandchild. For almost thirty years, Gram hosted a "Cousins' Christmas" party serving generous portions of Picas Pizza, presents, personal attention and love.

On January 24, 2021, with her four children at her side, Rosemary peacefully passed into the loving embrace of our Lord.

Her Funeral Mass will be private, but live streamed <https://www.facebook.com/Saint-Denis-Church-1109742115732597/> on Fri. Jan. 29th. at 11 AM.

A celebration of her life will be held at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in her memory to Meals on Wheels(<https://www.mowdelco.org/>)

# Comments

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“ Bill Shea and I have been friends were Crescent Boat Club rowing shipmates for many years. One day we realized that our Mom's had been classmates at West Catholic Girls class of '47! Rosemary Nolan Shea and my mother, Marie Iorio Hamilton, were two great ladies from a great era at West Catholic. That West Catholic reunion in Heaven must be one heck of a sock hop!!!  
Much love,  
Rich and Beth Hamilton

Richard Hamilton - January 29 at 10:30 AM

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“ Bernadette, Bill, Pat, Hugh,

Your mom meant so much to me. We had many laughs together. She always had a kind word for everyone and the best sense of humor. God Bless her. All of you took such good care of her. She always talked about her children and grandchildren. I love her dearly. You are all in my prayers.

Eileen

Eileen Cosgrove - January 28 at 08:54 PM

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“ Vivid Recollections was purchased for the family of Rosemary N. Shea.



January 28 at 02:42 PM

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“ My prayers and deepest sympathy to the Shea family on the passing of your Mom. Our families have been friends since back at the days of Holy Child Academy. Your Mom and my late wife, Peggy, were dear friends and lunched together periodically. Your Mom was a person of joy and good cheer and a delightful friend. I remember serving with your Dad on committees at Holy Child. May your Mom and Dad rest in the Peace and Glory of Our Lord. Amen.

Deacon Dan DeLucca

Daniel N. DeLucca - January 28 at 12:51 PM

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“ We had the privilege of being neighbors and friends with Rosemary for the past 10+ years. She was a friendly, welcoming, witty, and amazing woman who seemed more like a peer than an elder. We appreciated the "insider" knowledge of the neighborhood that she shared with us, and we looked forward to our occasional little gatherings over snacks and wine, with talk of travels, family, our histories, and life. It was always good to have her come along with us to the polls these past five years or so, in what became a ritual. We had some lively discussions during and after the drive. As she was active in her book group, Rosemary gave us some worthwhile recommendations of books she had read.

We were also grateful she could attend her very first Seder, at our home with a handful of others a few years ago. She later told us how she had enjoyed the experience. We shared annual greetings of our holiday celebrations, as she would give us a Hanukkah card each year, and we remembered her at Christmas.

We will surely miss her smiling face and presence in the neighborhood. Our lives were richer for having known her, and counting her as a friend. We wish the family the comfort of one another's support, as well as their cherished memories.

Sharon Parker and Susan Richards



Sharon Parker - January 28 at 11:36 AM

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“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Rosemary N. Shea.



January 28 at 08:39 AM

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“ 2 files added to the album Sister & Grandmother



Pat Shea - January 27 at 04:34 PM

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“ Aunt Kathleen and Uncle Harry purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Rosemary N. Shea.



Aunt Kathleen and Uncle Harry - January 27 at 02:29 PM

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“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Rosemary N. Shea.



January 27 at 12:26 PM

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“ Bernadette, Bill, Pat and Hugh and all Mrs. Shea’s wonderful family. I have such precious childhood memories of your BEAUTIFUL Mom (and all of us). I know you will miss her so much, your mom was such an incredible person, no one can ever replace her. No matter how old we are, it is never easy to lose our parent. My thoughts and prayers are with you as you grieve. Thinking of you all as you celebrate your Mothers remarkable life.

Patti Smith - January 27 at 12:08 PM

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“ Patti Smith lit a candle in memory of Rosemary N. Shea



Patti Smith - January 27 at 11:38 AM

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“ Rosemary was my absolute favorite patient! We shared the love of Ireland and she always laughed when I turned on my Irish brogue I looked forward to seeing Rosemary and Bernadette during her office visits! Rosemary always looking radiant with her bright smile and shamrock scarf! My heart is sad but I feel Rosemary’s presence and her spirit seems peaceful Sending love and hugs to Rosemary’s family!

Jeanne Fitzpatrick - January 27 at 09:09 AM

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“ A New Sunrise Spray was purchased for the family of Rosemary N. Shea.



January 27 at 08:31 AM