



Mrs. Marion Elaine Kearns

May 31, 1919 - November 16, 2020

Elaine “Gommy” Kearns passed away at home in the house her son-in-law built her, surrounded by her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren on Monday afternoon, November 16, 2020. She lived a long, fulfilling life, passing away at the age of 101. Elaine was born in 1919 to Daniel and Marion Delorey. She had a happy childhood, spending summers in Nashua, New Hampshire with her Grandma and Grandpa Delorey, and with her Grandma and Grandpa Goddeau in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. She adored her parents and had a strong bond and close friendship with her brother, Daniel “Buddy” Delorey Jr. Buddy’s wife, Monica Delorey, would become Elaine’s lifelong friend, bringing their families together well into their 90s.

Always sharp with a love for learning, she graduated as the Valedictorian of St. Joseph’s High School in 1937 and continued on to join the 1941 graduating class of UMass Amherst. She married her high school sweetheart, Wallace G. Kearns, in 1941 while he was home from the war, and together they built a family that would become her absolute pride and joy.

Elaine started her career as a teacher in 1961 in the Pittsfield school system before completing a 25-year tenure at Richmond Consolidated School where she was fondly referred to as Mrs. Kearns.

She was the definition of a strong woman. Born just a year before women’s suffrage, she lived through the Great Depression, her brother and husband serving in WWII and her son in Vietnam. She was extraordinarily resilient. She fought to live to an age that allowed her to share in her family’s many milestones and she cherished being with them until the very end. Truly one of a kind, her strength was conveyed through a gentle kindness, deep faith and unrivaled sense of compassion.

Elaine wrote in her 1937 Valedictorian speech that “we realize fully that knowledge and culture are not all-sufficient for happiness. There must be a deep abiding faith in the principles of right living. Our intellects and our wills must be so blended that the advantages we have enjoyed will not be unappreciated in the future.” 93 years later, she leaves behind a legacy founded upon these very values - a large family woven together through the generations with an understanding that our love and commitment to each other will bring us happiness and appreciation for what we have been given.

It would be completely impossible to communicate what Elaine accomplished in her life. There is no way to quantify what she's given to her family and friends, and no way to memorialize the extent in which she has cared for us over the years. She was a deeply devoted mother and equally amazing in her role as "Gram" and later "Gommy." She broke the mold in what it meant to be a grandmother when she boarded a school bus and rode it with her nervous great granddaughter all the way to her first day of school.

Her love knew no generational boundary, and her friendship no age difference. She kept her door open and a seat on her couch, always lending a sympathetic ear, loving advice and heartwarming laugh. We will always remember that special, radiating laugh.

Elaine leaves behind her four children and two daughters-in-law, Daniel Kearns of San Antonio Texas, David and Carol Kearns of Pittsfield MA, Debbie Harrington of Dalton MA, and Timmy and Sandy Kearns of Pittsfield MA. She is also looking over her 7 beloved grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren and her great great grandson.

She was welcomed in Heaven by her grandson Chris and granddaughter Colleen, her husband Wally, son-in-law Timmy, brother and sister-in-law Buddy and Monnie, her parents whom she loved dearly, and the many friends she's amassed throughout the decades.

Funeral Notice:

Due to recent COVID concerns, funeral services for Mrs. Marion Elaine Kearns will be by invitation only, with a Liturgy of Christian Burial on Friday, November 20 at 10 a.m. at St. Agnes Church, celebrated by the Rev. Christopher Malatesta, Pastor. For those who would like to view the service through a live webcast, please visit <http://www.saintagnesc.com>. Burial will follow at St. Joseph Cemetery. Calling hours at St. Agnes Church will also be private. Elaine's family asks that you make any donations out to HospiceCare in the Berkshires in care of the Dwyer Funeral Home. In lieu of sending flowers to her family, please consider sending flowers to a local nursing home for residents isolated during quarantine. Donations CANNOT be made online, but may be made through the Dwyer Funeral Home.

Cemetery

St. Joseph Cemetery

222 Peck's Rd.

Pittsfield, MA, 01201

Comments



“ Mrs Kearns was my second grade teacher at Richmond and I adored her. I have thought of her often over the years and wondered if she was still with us. I am sorry that I did not work harder to reconnect with her. I can still remember learning subtraction, telling time and doing many fun holiday craft projects in her room. She was a wonderful teacher and a kind and sweet lady. My sincerest condolences to her entire family. You certainly had a gem of a mom / grandmother. Louise Stover Brogan

Louise Brogan - December 13, 2020 at 10:30 PM



“ I will certainly miss my monthly visits with Marion at Mount Carmel . She was truly forever young at heart and in spirit. Time would get away from us as we we reminisced about bike riding as kids and many other adventurous pursuits. I like to think she is riding her bike again into eternity in heaven!
I will try and send some flowers to her roommate because whoever knew Marion had to love her and miss her as well! And I send my deepest condolences to her entire family who were her pride and joy!

With Love and Prayer,
Mary Vaughan

Mary Vaughan - November 23, 2020 at 09:32 AM



“ Sorry, that I will not be with family at this time but, Inwill be there in spirit. Elaine was always there for everyone but, being with family was the highlight of her life. She always wanted to live until she was 100 & she accomplished that too, Love to all the family...
Anne Izzo

Anne Izzo - November 19, 2020 at 04:47 PM



“ A warm and engaging woman, always pleasant and welcoming! A beautiful person that truly enjoyed life.
OB

Dan O'Brien - November 19, 2020 at 02:39 PM



“ Bob I lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Marion Elaine Kearns



Bob I - November 19, 2020 at 01:12 PM



“ Dave,Carol,and family,
I was so sorry to learn of your mother's passing.Please extend our condolences to your entire family.
With deepest sympathy,
Jack and Mary Mazzeo

jack Mazzeo - November 19, 2020 at 12:09 PM



“ 88 files added to the album LifeTributes



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - November 19, 2020 at 10:33 AM



“ Elaine "Gommy" Kearns bought happiness to all that knew her. Her longevity is attributed by the love and togetherness that she received from her family. I so remember her sitting by Debbies' Pool during the summer, loving every moment-- watching her grand children. She was a very special woman, her love of educating children has resinated to her children by her example. She will be sadly missed. With love and sincere sympathy, Fran & John Broderick

Frances Broderick - November 18, 2020 at 12:45 PM



“ Dear TK and beloved Kearns Family,

Sincere and warm condolences during this difficult time. Your Mom, was a Mom to me and so many other kids who came over to your house to play baseball, basketball, sleepovers - always shared a warm welcoming smile and LOVED her cookies/milk.

May she continue to watch over and care for your family and friends.

Life is beautiful, when one, like your Mom, brings beauty into the lives of others, as she did everyday of her life.

Peace and Love.

Richard Sinopoli (805) 340 4542

Richard Sinopoli - November 18, 2020 at 12:38 PM