



Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson

July 15, 1943 - March 14, 2021

Rotary, Garden Clubs President. Family Historian.

Of Palm Beach, FL., and Danvers, MA, Jo-Ann Hollister Emerson, 77, a woman cherished by generations of a growing family. To those who knew her well, Jo-Ann embodied the spirit of her favorite childhood character, The Unsinkable Molly Brown, who joyfully sang, "I Ain't Down Yet" in the face of her dilemma. Beloved wife of Galo P. Emerson, Jr. for 30 years. Devoted mother of Robin, Barry, Wendy and Karen. Adored by 20 Grand and one Great-Grandchild. Born in Pittsfield, MA July 15, 1943, the daughter of Rose E. (Pender) Hollister and Norman B. Hollister; she was raised and educated in the city of Pittsfield.

On Sunday, March 14th, she was admitted to the Palm Beach Gardens Medical Center where she passed away that evening from complications of a blood infection. Jo-Ann will be interred at the Putnam Cemetery in the families' private grounds in Danvers, MA

For 25 years, she and her husband Galo ran Putnam Pantry, the family's ice cream and candy business at 255 Newbury Street, Danvers, a business founded in 1951 by Galo's father and operated today by his son Eric and his wife Cathie of Danvers.

For the past five years Jo-Ann and Galo have made Palm Beach, FL home, while traveling north to spend summers with their large and extended New England family. They were considered by most to have an insatiable thirst for travel and had recently traveled with different family members to Europe,

Mexico, and China. She was the first person to say yes to an invitation and never missed an opportunity to spend time with her family. Jo-Ann was a loving, compassionate and welcoming woman who always had room at her table for one more. Her infectious smile lit up the room and her presence filled even the largest of spaces.

Jo-Ann was equally well known for publishing a family history book on the Keyburn-Pender family tree. At the time of her death, she was working on a generational update of the hard-cover original to be published for this year's triennial family reunion. She was a loving sister to siblings Keye, Barry and Jim.

She was an active member of the Danvers Historical Society, Member of the Danvers Garden Club serving as President from 1999-2001 where she spearheaded the development of a Children's Garden, Member of the Danvers Rotary Club serving as President from 2003 –2004. She contributed to the restoration of the General Israel Putnam House and was Board Member of the General Israel Putnam Homestead Trust.

Over her lifetime Jo-Ann was active as an accountant, real estate professional and business owner. She graduated Pittsfield High School, Class of 1961, attended Chamberlain School of Retailing, Berkshire Community College (Associate Degree in Accounting) Western New England College (Bachelor degree in Accounting) and was a career public accountant. In the 1970's she worked as Lead Accountant for the publisher, Ski America in Pittsfield and later, for 10 years in Title Research at Roche, Carens & DeGiacomo, Boston. She leaves behind her daughter Robin Wadsworth (Rita Hubner) of Newton, MA, son Barry Wadsworth (Sandy) of Westfield, MA, daughter Wendy Bryan (Phil) of Dedham, MA, daughter Karen Rella (Tony) of Dedham, MA, stepdaughter Kim Morris (Arnie) of Jackson Hole, WY, stepdaughter Wendy Emerson (Tim Martens) of Topsfield, MA, stepson Eric Emerson (Cathie) of Danvers, MA, stepson Nathan Emerson (Lindsey) of Jackson Hole, WY. Her twenty grandchildren were the pride of her life: Kyle and Kaitlyn Hubner, Katherine, Kristina, Ryan Wadsworth, Sean, Matt and Tim Bryan, Mark and

Madison Rella, Haley and Matt Roberts, Robert and Sally Morris, Samantha Martens, Lauren Lamoly, Sarah Gay, Riley Mercier, Quincy & Reese Emerson and one great-granddaughter Emerson Figurido.

She also leaves behind her siblings P. Keyburn Hollister (John Gobel) of Pittsfield, MA, J. Barrett "Barry" Hollister (Susan) of Pittsfield, MA and James P. Hollister (Robin) of Wellesley, MA and the many friends she has amassed around the world. She was predeceased by her first husband Basil Robert "Wiggs" Wadsworth, Jr and her parents Rosalie and Norman Hollister.

Funeral Notice:

Relatives and friends are invited to the C.R. Lyons & Sons Funeral Directors, 28 Elm Street, Danvers, MA, on Friday, March 26, from 4 p.m until 7 p.m. for calling hours. The Liturgy of Christian Burial for Jo-Ann will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Danvers People-to-People Food Pantry, PO Box 2076, Danvers, MA 01923.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR **26**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Lyons & Sons Funeral Directors
28 Elm St
Danvers, MA 01923-2802
(978) 777-7900

Tribute Wall



“ *Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. created a Webcast in memory of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - March 27, 2021 at 09:01 AM

TB

“ *Jo-Ann, rest in love. We will miss you deeply. You were our incredibly informed Pender Keyburn family historian. You graciously shared your discoveries and documented everything. Your good work allows us to remember those we loved who are no longer with us. Thank you for making it possible for our future family members to come to know our ancestors. Until we meet again. Our Prayers and love go out to Galo, Robin, Barry, Wendy, Karen, grandchildren, and family.*

Sincerest condolences,

Tami Broms, Rob Morgan, Eli Broms, Ethan Broms, the Holst & Yamamoto Families

Tami Broms - March 28, 2021 at 04:44 AM



“ *Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.*



March 26, 2021 at 09:39 AM



“ 51 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - March 25, 2021 at 03:33 PM



“ 38 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Dwyer Funeral Home Inc. - March 25, 2021 at 12:39 PM

DD

“ It's hard to believe she won't be at this event in physical form. But, I'm sure her presence will be felt and watching over all those she loved. She's always been steadfast in her commitment to her family and friends. And with warm, welcoming and open arms for all. My heart aches for you Robin, Wendy, Barry and Karen to have lost your Mom. I'm so happy you've made so many memories together and given her so many beautiful grandchildren. I've always admired your family for your knack for having a blast together. Galo our hearts are with you for you must be missing your dear wife JoAnn.

Dominique DeMarsh - March 25, 2021 at 09:43 AM

WD

“ With Love, Dominique, John and Olivia DeMarsh purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



With Love, Dominique, John and Olivia DeMarsh - March 25, 2021 at 09:28 AM

BM

“ JoAnn was a beautiful presence at Bass River Tennis Club along with “Wink” during “Early Bird” hours. Her smile was contagious and will surely be missed. Rest In Peace JoAnn. My sympathies to Galo and the family.

Bruce Merrill

Bruce Merrill - March 25, 2021 at 06:53 AM

LL

“ Jim, Robin, Keye, John, Barry and your large wonderful family, I only had the pleasure of meeting JoAnn a few special times. I know that she will be deeply missed. My sincere condolences. Love and strength, Linda Lane

Linda Lane - March 24, 2021 at 07:48 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



March 24, 2021 at 05:23 PM

YF

“ Your Thought Industries Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



Your Thought Industries Family - March 24, 2021 at 04:30 PM



“ Beautiful Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



March 24, 2021 at 03:22 PM

HD

“ I remember Aunt Jo-Ann always in the center of family events, always smiling, so beautiful to admire. She made me feel special. She was always inclusive. I always wished I could be like her as a kid. I am so sad to lose her. My heart goes out to her dear family.
Love, Heather

Heather DeShane - March 24, 2021 at 03:07 PM

PC

“ Keye, John & Family, Sounds like Jo-Ann left you way too soon. The girls and I wish to extend our deepest sympathy.
Pam Conry, Meredith Conry, Vanessa Kruger

Pamela M. Conry - March 24, 2021 at 03:05 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



March 24, 2021 at 02:57 PM

TA

“ The Minnicks: Thomas, Tana, Ani, Corinne and Aidan purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



The Minnicks: Thomas, Tana, Ani, Corinne and Aidan - March 24, 2021 at 02:44 PM



“ *Fairest of All was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.*



March 24, 2021 at 12:40 PM



“ *To Joannes' family,
Words, however kind, can't mend your heartache. I am so sorry for your loss. Joanne (mom) was such a great and thoughtful person. She will be missed but never forgotten.*

God Bless,

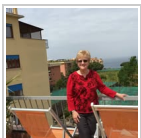
Gary & Laurie Jamross

Gary Jamross - March 24, 2021 at 12:28 PM



Galo, so sorry to hear of your wife's passing. Enjoyed meeting you both at BLCC and playing bridge with her. Learned a lot about the Putnam family. She was a delight to know. Prayers to you and family

Barbara Nelson - March 24, 2021 at 05:38 PM



“ *My sympathy and love go to the family. She loved life and lived it well.*

Patricia Decker

Patricia Leavenworth Wadsworth Decker - March 24, 2021 at 12:08 PM

GM

“ George & Martha purchased the Guiding Light Bouquet for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



George & Martha - March 24, 2021 at 10:08 AM

WC

“ Warren and Mary Clardy purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



Warren and Mary Clardy - March 24, 2021 at 09:16 AM

RF

“ Keye, John and your entire family, please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of JoAnn, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all at this difficult time..

Rosanne M. Frieri - March 24, 2021 at 07:46 AM

YF

“ Your Teton Outpatient Family purchased the Encanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



Your Teton Outpatient Family - March 23, 2021 at 05:52 PM

JW

“ *Jo-Ann was always gracious and welcoming when I'd stop by, unannounced, in Danvers for a quick drive-by visit. I am so sorry for your loss. I will miss her warm spirit and beautiful smile.*

Judi Appel White - March 23, 2021 at 05:22 PM



“ *Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.*



March 23, 2021 at 04:31 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.*



March 23, 2021 at 04:26 PM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.*



March 23, 2021 at 02:58 PM

SK

“ *Joanne, your soaring Spirit will continue to light up the room
Love,
Sheila*

Sheila Keator - March 23, 2021 at 10:48 AM

MM

“ *Jo-Ann was one of the liveliest of our bunch of teenagers in
Pittsfield, and everything I've just read shows she never changed.
Barry, Keye, Jim, and all the rest of her big family, enjoy the
memories.*

Mark Miller

Mark Miller - March 23, 2021 at 10:01 AM

LP

“ *Love, Henry, Monica, Reid, & Landon Pierpan
purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of
Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.*



Love, Henry, Monica, Reid, & Landon Pierpan - March 23,
2021 at 09:51 AM

RB

“ *Russ & Catha Bubas purchased the Tranquil Sea
s for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.*



Russ & Catha Bubas - March 23, 2021 at 09:41 AM

ST

“ I met Jo-Ann when I was doing my family tree research. We are related through the Pender branch. Jo-Ann mailed me information and photos of our ancestors. I met Jo-Ann and Galo once when they were passing through Baltimore on their way up to Massachusetts from Florida. We kept in touch through Facebook. While I didn't know her long, I was very shocked and saddened by her passing. My condolences to Galo, her children, and all of her family.

Sean Tully - March 22, 2021 at 10:28 PM

TF

“ The Cavanagh, Holst & ORourke Families purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



The Cavanagh, Holst & ORourke Families - March 22, 2021 at 08:14 PM



“ Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



March 22, 2021 at 06:51 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.*



March 22, 2021 at 06:00 PM



“ *Although we didn't know Jo Ann for a long time, we meet her two years ago at a luncheon in Palm Beach, Florida, also, living in her building.*

She was a lovely, gracious lady with a beautiful smile and a kindness that we will never forget.

May her family know, Bill and Richard will miss her a prayers to all.

*God Bless,
Bill Jennings
Richard Triggs*

Richard Triggs - March 22, 2021 at 04:30 PM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.*



March 22, 2021 at 04:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



March 22, 2021 at 04:05 PM



“ *Majestic Heart* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



March 22, 2021 at 03:58 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Mrs. Jo-Ann Emerson.



March 21, 2021 at 07:09 PM