



Clare Jordan Spanks

JAN 19, 2016



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Clare Jordan Spanks

JAN 19, 2016

Clare Jordan Spanks, a lifelong resident of Lawrence, MA, died on January 19, 2016. She was the daughter of the late James and Helen (Ryan) Jordan and the beloved wife of the late John J. Spanks, a former Lawrence Police Officer. She was predeceased by her siblings, James, Loyola and Eileen Jordan as well as Dorothea LaPlante and Vera Moriarty. Clare attended the Hood School as well as Lawrence High School and was a graduate of Burdett Business School. During her life she was employed as a secretary in Gaunt's Mill, Textile Aniline Dye Company, Tewksbury State Hospital and the Social Services Department in Lawrence. She was also secretary to the principal at the Bruce School until her retirement. It was at this job that her love of children was shown through her personal awareness of the children who needed that extra kindness when they found themselves in the office. Clare also realized that education only occurs when children are not hungry. She, Marie Pekarski and Kay O'Connor often saw to it that those who needed it got that extra milk or sandwich. During World War II, Clare was an Air Raid Warden. She was a former member of St. Lawrence's Parish and later attended Mass at St. Patrick's and St. Monica's. Clare had belonged to the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the St. Clare League and the Holy Family Women's Auxiliary. She also volunteered at Bread and Roses. Clare enjoyed traveling with friends and family. She visited England, Ireland, Scotland, Switzerland, Vienna, Italy, Germany, and Canada. Chair caning, knitting and needlepoint were among her many skills. Clare is survived by her son John J. Spanks and her daughter Ellen T. (Spanks) Finneran as well as several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 23, 2016 at 11:00 A.M. in St. Monica's Church, 212 Lawrence St., Methuen, MA. Burial will follow in the Immaculate Conception Cemetery in Lawrence, MA. Relatives and friends are invited to call on Friday, January 22, 2016 from 4 to 8 P.M. at the John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc., 122 Amesbury St., Lawrence, MA. Memorial



Obituary

Clare Jordan Spanks

contributions may be made in Clare's name to either the Home for Little Wanderers Development Department, 10 Guest St. Boston, MA, 02135, or to Bread & Roses, 58 Newbury St. Lawrence, MA, 01840. To send an online condolence or for more information, please go to www.breenfuneralhome.com.



Tribute Wall

Clare Jordan Spanks

MK

Mary Ann Barry Kraunelis posted:

Dear John and Ellen, It was with great sadness that I learned of the recent passing of your mother. My brother, Dave Barry, sent me a copy of the obituary. What wonderful accomplishments she made to those she came in contact with kindness and generosity. I was often told of the good times and the laughs she had with "the girls" on Emerald Ave. Clare was admired, respected and loved. With my prayers and sympathy, Mary Ann Barry Kraunelis

March 7 at 8:00 PM

CH

Carol Harding posted:

I am very sorry about Claire she as a dear friend of my sister Kay O'Connor Kay is in a nursing hone in Dover she was quite upset not to be with family on this sad day 2904 Just wanted you to know Kay was thinking of your mother

March 7 at 8:00 PM

KS

Kathy Boyle Selevan posted:

Dear John and Ellen, So sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. She was such a spirited woman who enjoyed every minute of life and so strong and healthy. You were both so good to her all these years. She is the last of the Sheridan Street memories to pass. My thoughts are with you both. Kathy

March 7 at 8:00 PM

ES

Ed Schruender posted:

Ellen, John I was sorry to hear about your loss. Claire brought up two wonderful children. She will be missed. Ed Schruender

March 7 at 8:00 PM

GC

Gordon Crowley posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Spanks family and Clare's many friends at this time. I remember Clare's kindness during my visit to North Andover in 1991. May she rest in peace.
Gordon Crowley

March 7 at 8:00 PM



Tribute Wall

Clare Jordan Spanks

MM

Mary, Pat, Caroline, Denis And Pat Mccarthy posted:

Dear Ellen and John. Sincere sympathies on the death of your dear Mum. We have such happy memories of meeting her on several occasions in Ireland and at her home in Lawrence. It was nice that she was able to stay at home in her later years. May her soul rest in peace.

March 7 at 8:00 PM

AC

Anne Collins posted:

With Sympathy to John & Ellen. Will miss you Clare. Had some good times & some good trips, Anne

March 7 at 8:00 PM

JT

Jo & Larry Traynor posted:

Dear Ellen & John, We are so sorry to hear of your sad loss , although this is a most difficult time for you, you have the most wonderful memories of your Mum to sustain you in the days ahead. There is a blessing in the Irish language "Ar deis De to raibh a hanam dilis" which means "May her gentle soul rest forever at the right hand of the Lord." With renewed sympathy, Larry & Jo.

March 7 at 8:00 PM

AC

Ann Crowley posted:

John Ellen we have lovely memories of your mother, she made us so welcome when we visited her home and the lovely meal she prepared. Lovely memories of her as she visited us all in Ireland. Condolence to you both Florence and Ann Crowley

March 7 at 8:00 PM

BS

Betty Stoutt posted:

John & Ellen, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your dear mother Claire. Words cannot ease the pain of loss, but may it help you to know that your friends are always there to share in your grief. Even though I cannot be with you in person, I am thinking of you both during this difficult time. With heartfelt sympathy from Ireland, Love & prayers, Betty Stoutt.

March 7 at 8:00 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Clare by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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