



Bernice (Bernie) M. Burke

December 30, 1932 - July 17, 2021

Bernice (Bernie) Murphy Burke, age 88, formerly of Lawrence, MA, Chocorua, NH and Salem NH, passed away peacefully at Ashland Farms, North Andover surrounded by her loving children on July 17, 2021.

Born in Lawrence, MA on December 30, 1932, Bernie was the dearly beloved daughter of the late Timothy Christopher and Kathryn (O'Hara) Murphy, and her late brother Donald who was a Marist Brother, known as Brother Timothy Daniel, FMS.

Bernie attended St. Rita's Grammar School, was a 1950 graduate of St. Mary's High School and The Wyndham School in Boston. Her career began as a legal secretary for local attorneys followed by 18 years as a full time stay-at-home mom. After her children were in school, she enjoyed working at the Community Saving Bank in South Lawrence.

Bernie met the love of her life, the late John (Jack) Burke (CCHS '49), at a high school dance and in her senior year they were crowned the King and Queen of the Prom. After a courtship that spanned Jack's Naval service overseas in the Korean War, they were married at a big wedding in St. Mary's Church followed by a reception at the Andover Country Club. Their married life was filled with dancing, laughter, extensive travel and many, many friends.

Bernice and Jack raised their six children in their Bailey Street home along with their dogs Mike and Tara and they became active parishioners of St. Patrick's Church. Bernie was a devout Catholic and a member of Our Ladies Sodality along with attending all the activities and sporting events of her children. In later years, she attended Mass at Our Lady of the Mountains, North Conway, Mary, Queen of Peace in Salem and St. Michael's in North Andover.

With an open door policy for family and friends that extended from Bailey street to Chocorua, NH, she and Jack welcomed guests to their Heavenly Hill Bed and Breakfast. Visitors from around the world left notes in their guest book sharing that they came as

strangers and left feeling like they had visited old friends, which many of them became over the years. They enjoyed hosting family gatherings, weddings and many weekends with friends at Heavenly Hill. Bernie's gracious warmth and delicious breakfasts made her a fabulous host.

Bernie & Jack loved to travel with their trips to Austria, England, Germany, Aruba & St. Maarten. In later years, she went glacier-hopping in Alaska, snow-mobiled in Jackson Hole, cruised to Bermuda, visited her granddaughter in Hawaii, roamed the countryside in Ireland and even walked in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin.

Bernie enjoyed her many friends from The Moving On Group, a local support and social group for widows and widowers and The Club at Meadowbrook in Salem where she lived until moving into Ashland Farms in North Andover. There are many happy memories of holiday celebrations with her six children, their spouses, ten grandchildren and six great grandchildren at all of her homes which were filled with laughter and love and of course, shenanigans.

Bernie is survived by her children, Colleen King and her husband Thomas of Hampstead, NH, Timothy and his wife Donna of Lawrence, Ann Marie Fogg-Brown and her husband William of Andover, Shaun of Salem, NH, Terence and his wife Lena of Harwich, MA and Sheila Amero and her husband David of East Wakefield, NH; 10 grandchildren, 6 great grandchildren and several cousins, nieces and nephews.

Her family wishes to thank the staff and nurses at Ashland Farms and Compassus Hospice Care for their love, caring and support for their Mom.

Friends and family may call on Thursday, July 22, 2021 from 4:00PM to 7:00PM at the John Breen Memorial Funeral Home Inc. 35 Merrimack St. North Andover, MA, 01845. Her funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday July 23, 2021 at 10:00AM In St. Michael's Church, 196 Main Street, North Andover, MA, 01845. Burial will follow at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Waverly Rd. North Andover.

Memorial donations in her name may be sent to The Marist Brothers Retirement Fund, Provincial Development Office, 4200 West 115 Street, Chicago, Illinois 60655.

Cemetery

**Holy Sepulchre
Cemetery**
Waverly Road
North Andover, MA, 01845

Events

JUL 22 **Calling Hours** 04:00PM - 07:00PM

John Breen Memorial Funeral Home, Inc. - North
Andover
35 Merrimack St., North Andover, MA, US, 01845

JUL 23 **Funeral Mass** 10:00AM

St. Michael Church
196 Main Street, North Andover, MA, US

Comments



“ To the Burke family- Martha & I want to extend our deepest sympathy to all of you. Bernice & I worked together at the Old Community Savings Bank in South Lawrence. She was always a joy to work with and made each day a much happier time.. God Bless you, Bernice. Love, Bob Mesiti.

bob mesiti - August 01 at 01:06 PM



“ Aunt Bernie, you were always a woman with a huge smile, and when our family visited, always had an amazing time. Loved our last visit and as the woman who my mother thought was her best Sister-in-law, she did have that pick correct. I am sure all of the Burke crew are having a welcome party for you. Tim Jerow

Timothy Jerow - July 22 at 07:01 PM



“ Dear Burke Family,
We want to extend our deepest sympathy to all of you, on the death of your mother, grandmother & great-grandmother, Bernie.
I personally hold many treasured memories of Bernie close to my heart. Just the other day I was thinking about the beautiful Hitchcock rocker (that I still have), that both your parents & your grandmother Kathryn gave us as a wedding gift so many years ago. It has stood the 'test of time'. Over the years, I've rocked both of my children to sleep with it. No doubt, a grandchild or two were lulled to sleep in it as well.
Like that sturdy wooden rocker, your mother's faith in Our Lord, carried her through all these years. May all of us now be enlivened by that same faith. May all of us grasp & cling to the reality that Bernie knew so well, that for the Christian, life has not ended, it has merely changed.
May this belief now bring us all hope & consolation during this difficult time.

Sending you our love & prayers,
Your Cousins, Pat & Dave Rizkallah, Derry, NH

Pat Rizkallah - July 22 at 06:24 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Bernice (Bernie) M. Burke.



July 21 at 03:38 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Bernice (Bernie) M. Burke.



July 20 at 04:03 PM



“ Sincere condolences to the Burke family on the loss of your beloved Mother. Bernice was always a pleasure to talk with and she was a wonderful friend of our Mom and Dad. May the wonderful time spent together bring some comfort during this sad time.
Neil & Cynthia Sheehan

Neil & Cynthia Sheehan - July 19 at 01:13 PM



“ To the Burke family so sorry to hear the loss of your mom, our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time , God bless you all Kevin and Jean Sheehan

Kevin Sheehan - July 22 at 02:25 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Bernice (Bernie) M. Burke.



July 19 at 10:56 AM



“ I share this poem with you as it was shared for my family after our dad passed, we all found great comfort in it...

God saw you getting tired
And a cure was not to be
So he put his arms around you
And whispered
“come with me”

With tearful eyes we watched you
And saw you pass away
And although we love you dearly
We could not make you stay

A golden heart stopped beating
Hard-working hands at rest
Good broke our hearts to prove to us
He only takes the best

Su - July 19 at 09:48 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Bernice (Bernie) M. Burke.



July 19 at 07:30 AM



“ To Terry, Sheila, Colleen, Shaun, Ann Marie and Tim,

I was so sorry to read about your mom. It was a beautiful tribute describing how much she enjoyed life. She was a wonderful lady and she loved her family. Treasure those times spent with her, these will always have a special place in your heart. Thinking of all of you at this time
Barbara (Bourque) Beauchesne

Barbara Beauchesne - July 18 at 09:12 PM