



Josephine Frances Steckevicz

January 4, 1920 - November 25, 2018

Josephine Frances (Moran) Steckevicz, who preferred being addressed “Mrs. Edwin”, was born in Malden, Massachusetts, the youngest of three daughters of John F. and Maria (Fahey) Moran. She lived in Hudson since her marriage in 1947 to Edwin F. Steckevicz, who pre-deceased her in April 2008 after 61 devoted years of marriage.

Jo received her Bachelor’s degree from Regis College and began her career as executive secretary in the Psycho-Educational Clinic at Harvard University. When she married Edwin, they moved to Hudson, where over the years they contributed richly to the community and joyfully raised their two children, Mary Jo and Randy. “Jo and Eddie” operated the Clover Farm Store, the hub for fresh food and unparalleled customer service. Jo was an influential leader in Catholic Women’s Guild, N.H. Federation of Women’s Clubs, Hudson Fortnightly Club and PTA. An active participant in Saint John the Evangelist Church community, Jo regularly cooked and delivered special dinners to the convent, the rectory, and the Capuchin Friary. She led many troops of Brownies and Girl Scouts in creative cross-cultural and humanitarian projects. A devoted mother, Jo was actively engaged with her children’s interests, producing plays performed in the yard, venturing into tent camping, and an annual week at Hampton Beach. She created a warm, hospitable home atmosphere, where teenagers and monks from the Friary felt free to drop in anytime to socialize.

Jo accomplished so many projects with utmost competence and grace, including founding and operating the Winnstead, a successful restaurant, and working as a youth counselor with Neighborhood Youth Corps and parent advocate with Headstart.

In her fifties, Jo commuted to night classes at University of New Hampshire, earning her Master’s Degree in Vocational Education, while teaching full-time in the Business Department at Merrimack High School. She organized the region’s first Cooperative Education program, recruiting employers to provide job placements for students, and advocated for her students in their jobs and future careers. She guided and supported countless students over the years, many of whom returned to tell her how she had changed their lives. She continued to meet annually with her “Co-op Girls”, since her

retirement from full-time teaching at the age of 74.

While excelling in her teaching career, she explored art and became proficient in oil painting, watercolor, collage, needlepoint, embroidery, and even built a cherry wood coffee table with the Woodworking Department at Merrimack High School. She created all of her paintings of images meaningful to special people, to whom she gave the art, after Eddie carefully framed each piece.

Precious wife, mother and grandmother, Jo will be remembered for her boundless generosity, humor, and huge heart extending to her beloved family and friends, as well as strangers. Her physical and spiritual health were supported and enriched by the loving care of her amazing neighbors and the kind caregivers of Healthy at Home and Home Health and Hospice. For the past five years, the dedicated staff of Hunt Community have provided immeasurable, sensitive care of her health, comfort and quality of life. Jo had strong faith and a deep devotion to "The Blessed Mother". She often procured a Green Scapular for persons in distress, assuring them that Catholic belief was not necessary for the scapular to bring solace. She experienced a truly happy life from girlhood into her 90s. She regularly proclaimed that she was ever grateful for having "the best life and the best husband and children any woman could ever wish for."

Members of her family include her daughter, Mary Jo Steckevicz and her husband, Dennis Redfield, of Cape Elizabeth, Maine; her son, Edwin M. (Randy) Steckevicz of Cambridge, Massachusetts; her grandson, John Redfield Steckevicz of Portland, Maine; and her sister-in-law Joan Steckevicz of Nashua. She was pre-deceased by her sisters Juliet Burgoyne and Ida K. Moran.

Visiting hours will be held on Tuesday, November 27th from 6pm-8pm in the DUMONT-SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME, 50 FERRY ST. IN HUDSON, NH. A Mass of Christian burial will take place on Wednesday, November 28th at 10am in St. Louis de Gonzague Church, 48 West Hollis St., in Nashua. All may meet at church. Burial will be in St. Stanislaus Cemetery in Nashua. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Jo's loving memory to the Corpus Christi Food Pantry and Assistance, 3 Crown St., Nashua, NH 03060. To share an online message of condolence or for directions, please visit www.dumontsullivan.com THE DUMONT-SULLIVAN FUNERAL HOME IN HUDSON IS IN CHARGE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

Cemetery

St Stanislaus Cemetery

54 Pine Hill Rd.

Nashua, NH,

Events

NOV VISITING HOURS 06:00PM - 08:00PM

27

Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home Hudson, NH
50 Ferry Street, Hudson, NH, US, 03051

NOV MASS AT CHURCH 10:00AM

28

St. Louis de Gonzague Church
48 West Hollis St., Nashua, NH, US

Comments



“ Great teacher, who taught us as much about life, as about business! I still remember many things she said in class! Rest in Peace!

Deb Matson - March 06, 2019 at 01:01 AM



“ Mary Jo and Randy, I am so sorry to learn of the passing of Aunt Jo. When I think of her I think immediately of warmth and a lively zest for life. She was a truly lovely woman and someone who embraced you not only with her arms but with her spirit. I am sending love to you. Marissa Burgoyne

Marissa Burgoyne - November 30, 2018 at 07:39 PM



“ Mary Jo and Randy
Words cannot describe what Josie meant to our family. Eddie and Josie meant a fun evening. All the little presents at Christmas, and so much love for my brother Jeff who was God son to Josie. Rest In Peace dear Lady! You are with your knight. May God hold you in the palm of His hand.
The McCarthy family

Martha Robertson - November 30, 2018 at 04:44 PM



“ Dear Mary Jo, Randy and family,
I was so sad to receive the news about your mom. My most sincere condolences and prayers go to you. Your Mom and Dad wove their inspiring love and friendship to me and my family growing up in Hudson. It was a blessing to us all. Much love to you and your family.
Wanda Sage-Sanford

Wanda Sage Sanford - November 30, 2018 at 08:13 AM



“ Randy and Mary Jo, My deepest sympathies. Your mother was truly a lovely lady. Diane Boucher Bowen.

Diane L. Bowen - November 28, 2018 at 03:27 PM



“ Dear Randy, Joe, and all family members,

I don't know where to start to tell you all how much Josie meant to me. When I began teaching at Merrimack High, she was like a mother to me . . . I just loved her because she cared so much about student success. More than that, I knew she loved me and we often laughed together and just had such a strong professional and non-professional bond.

When we had both stopped teaching, we still shared Christmas and St. Patrick's Day!! I used to bring corned beef and cabbage on St. Pat's. I will always think of her on March 17 each year.

Anyone who knew her, knew her incredible, risque sense of humor. Through many "trials" in my life, humor has kept me going; I certainly had my sense of humor embellished by knowing Josie.

She taught my children . . . and fostered the work ethic that both still possess. Every student remembers how insistent she was on perfection. Thank God for her refusal to accept less.

Josie was an extraordinary woman who never bragged. Reading her biography, I am even more impressed with her accomplishments. She was truly a trail blazer.

I am, of course, sad that she has left us, but I know where she is and that is good. There will be no typing errors in Heaven!

God bless you all. How lucky we all were and are to have known such a remarkable lady.

Louise P. Hickey
23 Dirt Road
Merrimack NH 03054
603-566-4891

Louise Paulette Hickey - November 28, 2018 at 08:03 AM



“ Louise, thank you for this. Like I said, she spoke of you so much, the name Louise Hickey was a common sound in our house. Best, R.

Edwin M Steckevicz - November 28, 2018 at 03:51 PM



“ Josie, I think you know how much you meant to me.....It was so wonderful to have you as a true friend....You touched everyone, And you had so much love to give.....Know that I'll think of you often and will keep in touch with MJ and Randy....I have that picture of us on my kitchen shelf. You did and always make the world a better place....And thank God for St. Anthony...He always did help us to find things....Love you to the moon.....Linda and "The Boss" :)

linda jo varnum - November 27, 2018 at 08:51 PM



“ I never had the pleasure and honor of meeting Jo ,but heard much from her daughter Mary Jo who is my dear friend . Reading her obituary it is readily apparent why she has such an extraordinary daughter .Mine and Joe's condolences to Mj , Randy, John and Dennis . Love Vickie

Vickie - November 27, 2018 at 09:48 AM



“ Both of Mrs. Steckevecz's children are friends of mine, and I had the pleasure of meeting her on several occasions. Her good nature was always evident, and she made me feel like a member of the family. Hers was a great heart, and I'm sad that she has left us.

Edward Pearson - November 26, 2018 at 06:24 PM



“ My sincere condolences to Mrs. S's family. I had her for a class in the mid 90's and have drawn upon those skills many times in my adult life. Rest in Peace.

Colleen Rondon - November 26, 2018 at 05:28 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Josie's passing. I taught with her at Merrimack High School in the 1970s and 80s. She was a wonderful person and a great teacher. She always had a smile on her face and a pleasant word to all she met. My life was enriched by knowing Josie.

Robert Clinton, Merrimack High School Social Studies Department

Robert Clinton - November 26, 2018 at 12:17 PM



“ I am very saddened at the passing of our beloved teacher. We were planning our visit this week, to visit her very soon, for our lunch with her, right Becky. It would seem that perhaps, that was not supposed to be. We, myself, Becky and Deb, have visited her many many times over the past 25 years, being the students in her very first Coop Program at Merrimack High School 1972. She was a wonderful wonderful woman in my life, with a bright light, and she always made me think, appreciate, and smile. Oh we girls laughed at those lunches. And she always made sure we girls did not leave lunch without "dessert". She didn't have to twist our arms. We began meeting her in Nashua, then it was Hudson near her home, at her favorite restaurant, T Bones. She knew the whole gang in there and we were treated extra special while we were with her. Our last few visits were at Hunt Community. One time she was so tickled and asked us to open her closet door, and who do we see hanging on it?. A life sized poster of Tom Brady, we laughed. She loved the Patriots, yes, and Tom. She always told us that she has had a "wonderful" life, and the picture of her posted here, shows that bright light and her happy eyes and you can see that she meant it, when she said that. She did have a wonderful life, family, husband, and now she is with her "beloved" Eddie, and I am pretty sure she will have lunch with Deb sometime soon. You will be dearly missed our Mrs. S. Or, as she told us over the years, "call me Josie". Rest well dear Josie. Love you very much, Patty B.



Patty Belanger - November 26, 2018 at 11:23 AM



“ I am so sorry to hear about her passing! She was my very favorite teacher and I will miss her very much. What a wonderful life she lived! I love you Mrs. "S". Peace be with you.

Becky



Becky Sullivan - November 26, 2018 at 11:14 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Mrs. Steckevicz. I was lucky enough to be her student in the early 80s. I benefited from her hard work with the cooperative education program and am still working in an office setting. I often remember her and the things she taught me. What an amazing woman. My sympathy to her loved ones.
Cheryl French

Cheryl French - November 26, 2018 at 08:16 AM