



## Joan Rafferty

May 16, 2025

Joan Rafferty, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on May 16, 2025 at the age of 93, surrounded by her loving family.

Born and raised in Brooklyn, New York, Joan brought the strength and heart of the city with her throughout her life. She and her late husband, David Rafferty, raised their family in Chelmsford, Massachusetts, creating a home filled with love, laughter, and many celebrations. After David's passing in 1987, Joan moved to Pelham, New Hampshire, where she continued to share her warmth, humor, and indomitable spirit with everyone around her.

Joan is survived by her five children — Michael Rafferty and his wife Louise, Judy Rafferty and her wife Carole, Ellen Ford and her husband Brian, Betty Rafferty and her husband Dave, and Kathy Rafferty — as well as nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild.

As the matriarch of the family, Joan could always be found on the sidelines at a game, in the audience at the theatre/recital, every graduation and at every event supporting and cheering for those she loved.

Joan was a lover of puzzles, game shows, and family games. She had a special talent for winning, (likely because she made up her own rules) much to the amusement and amazement of those lucky enough to play with her.

She was well known for her distinctive culinary palate, which often included McDonalds Happy Meals, Papa Ginoss Pizza, and Dairy Queen Ice Cream.

She was also known to enjoy a cocktail at The Irish Cottage.

Her legacy is one of strength, humor, and unwavering love for her family. Joan Rafferty leaves behind generations who will carry forward her stories, her laughter, and her deep commitment to family.

She will be missed dearly and remembered always.

All services are private.