



Mrs. Phyllis A. Durkin

April 25, 1924 - April 3, 2016

Phyllis A. (Shea) Durkin,
Devoted Mother and Grandmother; 91

Phyllis A. (Shea) Durkin, 91, a member of a well-known Lowell family, died peacefully Sunday, April 3, 2016 surrounded by her loving family at D'Youville Senior Care Center on Varnum Avenue in Lowell. She was married to the late Gerald J. Durkin for 47 years before his death in 2002.

Born in Lowell on April 25, 1924 in her family home at 415 Varnum Avenue, Phyllis was the daughter of the late James T. Shea and Mary T. (Barry) Shea. She spent her childhood in Pawtucketville. Phyllis grew up as a parishioner of St. Rita Parish and played the drums as a proud member of St. Rita's Cadets.

Phyllis graduated from Lowell High School in 1942. She was a graduate of Bradshaw Business School and Lowell Commercial College. During World War II, she worked in the offices of Remington Arms, Bethlehem Steel, and U.S. Rubber. She later worked in the office of H.P. Hood and Sons where she met her husband, Gerald. They married and raised their children in the Highlands section of Lowell. As her children grew, she returned to work part time at Lowell General Hospital in the Central Supply Department retiring in 1986.

An active member of St. Margaret Church for 62 years, Phyllis served as a member of the board of the Blessed Virgin Mary Sodality and continued as a member throughout her life. In addition, she taught religious education.

Phyllis is survived by her children, Gerald J. Durkin Jr. and Jeannine (Letendre) Durkin of Dunstable, and Deborah A. (Durkin) Francoeur and Paul J. Francoeur of Lowell; her grandchildren, Aisling Durkin Francoeur of Boston, Paul Joseph and Natasha (Grob) Francoeur Jr. of Gloucester, Barry Durkin Francoeur, and Siobhan Durkin Francoeur of Lowell. She also leaves her sister-in-law, Claire (Neylon) Durkin of Lowell and many nieces and nephews.

Phyllis was also the sister of the late Ursula R. (Shea) Emond and Joseph Emond, James T. Shea Jr., Barbara M. (Shea) Lally, John J. Shea, Virginia Shea, and Marion F. Shea. Her Durkin family included the late Edward J. Durkin, Dorothy T. Durkin, James J. and Frances (Dunn) Durkin Jr., John L. and Mary (Hickey) Durkin, Paul F. and Constance (Howard) Durkin, Walter B. and Roseanne (Cox) Durkin, Harold J. and Frances (Ryan) Durkin, and Brendan T. Durkin.

Phyllis was a loving dedicated daughter, sister, aunt, wife, mother, and grandmother, a caregiver to all. She made it her purpose to serve others, and she held her faith and family paramount. She completed her circle of life on Varnum Avenue in Pawtucketville, "The Garden of Eden of the Merrimack Valley."

FUNERAL NOTICE

DURKIN—in Lowell, April 3, 2016, at D'Youville Senior Care Center, Phyllis A. (Shea) Durkin, 91, beloved wife of the late Gerald J. Durkin. Family and friends may call at the FAY MCCABE FUNERAL HOME, 105 MOORE STREET, LOWELL on FRIDAY from 3 until 8PM. Phyllis's FUNERAL will begin on SATURDAY MORNING at 9 o'clock from the Funeral Home, followed by her Funeral Mass at 10 o'clock at ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH 374 Stevens St. Lowell. Her burial will follow in St. Patrick's Cemetery. Phyllis's family wishes to express their sincere gratitude for the care, comfort, and respect that she received from the wonderful staff at D'Youville Senior Care Center.

As an expression of sympathy, donations in Phyllis's memory may be made to St. Margaret Parish Renewal and Renovation Fund, 374 Stevens Street, Lowell, MA 01851 or to Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Congregational Mission Office, 30 Jeffrey's Neck Road, Ipswich, MA 01938.

ARRANGEMENTS BY

THE FAY McCABE FUNERAL DIRECTORS

978-459-9222 www.faymccabe.com

Cemetery Details

St. Patrick's Cemetery

1251 Gorham Street
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 458-8464
<http://www.stpatrickcemetery.com/>

Previous Events

Calling Hours

APR 8. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fay McCabe Funeral Home
105 Moore Street
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 459-9222
sean@faymccabe.com
<https://www.faymccabe.com>

Funeral Mass

APR 9. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Margaret's Church
374 Stevens St.
Lowell, MA 01851

Burial

APR 9. 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Patrick's Cemetery
1251 Gorham Street
Lowell, MA 01852
(978) 458-8464
<http://www.stpatrickcemetery.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Phyllis A. Durkin*

January 28, 2023 at 03:09 PM



“ *Heidi Galpern lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Phyllis A. Durkin*



Heidi Galpern - April 08, 2016 at 12:51 PM



So sorry to read this news, Jerry. I hope that many happy memories will help to bring you and your family comfort at such a difficult time.

Heidi Galpern - April 08, 2016 at 12:51 PM

ED

“ *Jerry, Jeannine, Deborah & Paul: Our family was very sad to learn of your Mom's passing. Our hearts and prayers are with you during this sorrowful time. Eileen, John, Matthew & Marissa.*

Eileen DiGirolamo - April 08, 2016 at 12:11 PM



“ *Our sincerest condolences to the Durkin family. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Don and Carol Young*

Donald Young - April 08, 2016 at 11:07 AM

BF

“ *Debbie, Paul, Gerry, and Jeannine, We were so sorry to hear of your mother's passing. May the many happy memories you shared be of comfort to you now. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this difficult time.*

*Dick and Brenda Flanagan
Bonita Springs, Florida*

Brenda Flanagan - April 07, 2016 at 09:56 PM

TB

“ Truly one of the nicest families I have come to know in my lifetime. Mrs. Durkin was always a kind and caring person as was her husband. Every time I drive by the old homestead on Stevens Street I think of the Durkin Family and the some of the good times I had there. Our sympathies to Gerry, Jeannine, Debbie, Paul, and the entire Durkin Family.

Tom and Brenda Bomil

Tom Bomil - April 07, 2016 at 09:08 AM

CB

“ Sorry for your loss my thoughts and prayers are with you.
Celine Beaudry



Celine Beaudry - April 07, 2016 at 08:33 AM

ED

“ Phyllis was such a sweet sincere woman with a strong will to please others. She had a brilliant smile that would light up a room and a contagious laugh. She was a hard working woman and a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. She and "Huck" are finally reunited and enjoying everlasting life together. May they rest in peace.

Ed Durkin

Ed Durkin - April 06, 2016 at 11:20 PM

DE

“ With Deepest Sympathy Gerry & Jeannine. We are so sorry for your loss. You are in our thoughts & prayers. With Love, Debbie & Tim

debbie - April 06, 2016 at 08:33 PM

ML

“ So sorry for the loss of Phyllis...I attended Adoration evenings where I met Phyllis' Brothers, Jim and John...many times they mentioned Phyllis...truly, we send our love to all the Shea/Durkin family...Roger and Midge Landry

Midge Landry - April 06, 2016 at 07:07 PM