



## Barbara J. Cots

November 27, 1931 - January 24, 2024

Strafford - On, Wednesday January 24, 2024, Barbara J. Cots, neé Ellis, passed peacefully at the age of 92.

Barbara was born to Robert and Roxie (Miller) Ellis on November 27, 1931 in Franklin NH. She had two siblings, Albert and Ashley Ellis. Being raised during the Great Depression taught Barbara the importance of saving. She spent many hours in her Greenland, NH kitchen filling her pantry with canned goods from her garden, including tomato sauce, relish, jams and jellies, and pickles of all sorts.

Barbara raised five children—Ronald Cummings (deceased), Michael Cummings (deceased), David Cummings, Suzi Falcone, and Jean Henson. Barbara passed on her love of gardening to all of her children, who have since passed it on to her grandchildren as well.

Ever the dedicated saver, Barbara worked as a dietician for the Clipper Harbor Nursing Home until the age of 75. Upon her retirement, she spent her days reading history and fiction, studying her family genealogy, watching Judge Judy, and completing crossword puzzles in her favorite spot by the window. When her children and grandchildren came to visit, she relished sharing her favorite recipes with them (her chili was legendary in the family). Barbara was also a jokester; whenever her family offered to help around her house, she

assure them that she'd pay "when her friend straightened up—he's a hunchback."

Barbara was a member of the YWCA of Portsmouth for over 30 years and was a passionate swimmer. She logged hundreds of miles in the pool, swimming until she was nearly 80. During a charity raffle at the YWCA, she was the lucky winner of a bright red, fully-loaded Mazda Miata sports car. This especially tickled her family, who knew that she never drove over 45 miles per hour. Given this, Barbara was happy to trade the hotrod for cash.

A private Celebration of Life for Barbara will be scheduled later in the Spring.