



Charlotte K. Preston

October 7, 1931 - February 2, 2016

Hampton – Charlotte K. Preston, 84, of Hampton, also regarded by many as “The First Lady of Hampton”, died Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at Healthpark Medical Center in Fort Myers, Fla. where she wintered the past 15 years.

She was born October 7, 1931 in Lawrence, Mass., a daughter of the late Raymond V. and Annie M. (Reason) Keefe.

Charlotte was raised and educated in Lawrence and was a graduate of St. Patrick Grammar and St Patrick High School and went on to earn her nursing diploma from the Catherine Labouré School of Nursing at St. John’s Hospital in Lowell, Mass.

She shared 63 years of marriage with the love of her life, former State Senator Robert F. Preston. Charlotte met Bob in 1948 as a 16 year old blue eyed girl working as a clerk at the Rexall Drug Store at Hampton Beach. Bob was working as a dishwasher at the former Kelly’s Restaurant also at Hampton Beach and it was love at first sight.

Mrs. Preston had worked as a registered nurse at the former Bon Secours Hospital in Lawrence for decades and volunteered as the school nurse at Sacred Heart School in Hampton for several years. She also remained an active member of St. John’s Alumni Association.

At the time of her death Charlotte and Bob were one of the oldest couples in business at Hampton Beach, founding Preston Real Estate over 50 years ago. Prior to that, Bob ran a hot dog stand at the old Ashworth Hotel. She also owned and operated the former Yankee Lady Gifts and Apparel Shop at Hampton Beach.

She was longtime communicant of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish and was a member of the former Catholic Women's Club. She was a life member and most active recruiter of the 100 Club of NH raising funds for the benefit of fallen police officers, firefighters and their families. She was the "go to lady" for raising money for any and every cause to benefit others. People knew that when they met or received a call from Charlotte she would be seeking assistance to help the more needy.

Charlotte was supervisor of the checklist in Hampton for decades, the former chair of the Democratic Party of Hampton and was very active in the Democratic political community. She was a proponent of organ donation and successfully lobbied for having NH driver's licenses annotated with the organ donor logo. Over 15 years ago she helped find the location of the Soup Kitchen and Clinic at C Street and Ashworth Avenue at Hampton Beach that has grown to serve ten to twelve thousand meals each year. She was also a member of the Hampton Rotary Club and was the recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow award

In addition to her beloved husband Bob, she leaves five children, Maryrae Preston and husband Kevin Reusch of Hampton, Martha-Anne Preston and partner Paul Himmer of Seabrook Beach, Bob Preston and partner Angela Anderson of Hampton, Charlie Preston and partner Susanne Kolosey, James Preston and wife Heather of Seabrook Beach, many grandchildren and great grandchildren, her siblings, Maryrae Whalley and husband Edward of

Lynnfield, Mass., Joan Cargill and husband David of Lawrence, Mass., Denise Menery of Hampton, Bonnie Hoffman of Cleveland, OH and scores of nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, Charles Keefe, and sisters, Margaret Rice and Virginia Fleming.

Visiting hours will be from 3-7 P.M. Sunday, February 7, 2016 at the Remick & Gendron Funeral Home-Crematory, 811 Lafayette Road, Hampton. A mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 10:30 A.M. Monday, February 8, 2016 at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, 289 Lafayette Road, Hampton. Burial will follow in the High Street Cemetery, Hampton. Relatives and friends are respectfully invited. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Experience Hampton (a community organization for the betterment of the Town of Hampton) P.O. Box 1601, Hampton, NH 03843.

Cemetery Details

High Street Cemetery

150 High Street
Hampton, NH

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 7. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Remick & Gendron Funeral Home - Crematory
811 Lafayette Road ·
Hampton, NH 03842
(603) 926-6500
info@remickgendron.com
<https://www.RemickGendron.com/>

Funeral Mass

FEB 8. 10:30 AM (ET)

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church
289 Lafayette Road
Hampton, NH

Tribute Wall



“ *Charlotte K. Preston*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *Mom We Miss You! Love Ya. lit a candle in memory of Charlotte K. Preston*



Mom we miss you! Love ya. - February 19, 2016 at 07:36 AM

ET

“ To my Dear Friend Bob and his wonderful family,

Charlotte sure was the "First Lady of Hampton"! She cared so much about everyone; her family, her friends and even those that she had never met, All of us have much to say about her generosity, love and support. After Hurricane Katrina hit MS and LA, she and Bob were the first ones out on Hampton Beach raising money for the people who lost everything.(I grew up in MS and was touched by the help received from NH and the rest of the country)

In 1997 I really got to know Charlotte when I was helping to raise money to build our first handicap ramps at Hampton Beach. She made my fund raising efforts easier with her guidance and advise. I must add Humor!

I will always cherish the wonderful memories of our friendship and her love! Charlotte made "my(our) world " a better place!! We all will miss her!!

Bob, my thoughts and prayers are with you and the entire Preston family.

*Love,
Evelyn*

Evelyn thornton - February 16, 2016 at 04:34 PM

DR

“ On Behalf of the Roy Family, I would like to send my sincere condolences to the entire Preston Family.. Charlotte will be missed, Her photo shows what a bright smiling lady she was...

Deb Roy

Deborah Roy - February 11, 2016 at 07:01 AM

BH

“ We are so sorry to hear of your loss.

*Sincerely,
Theresa Witkos and Barbara Homewood*

Barbara Homewood - February 07, 2016 at 03:30 PM



“ Dearest Bob and Family, I am so sorry to hear of this beautiful woman's passing. G-d bless your family in this very difficult time.

Cassie Witek - February 07, 2016 at 12:56 PM



“ Dear Bob and Family,

We are sorry for your loss, and send our deepest sympathies.

Joseph, Elizabeth and the Koleszar family

Monica Koleszar - February 07, 2016 at 12:41 PM

BG

“ Bob, I never knew your wife but she was obviously a wonderful and amazing person. Together, you were a couple that accomplished so much by helping others.

I am sorry for your loss.

Bill Gilmore

Bill Gilmore - February 07, 2016 at 05:56 AM

RB

“ *The Preston Family: my memory of Charlotte Preston is a loving, and caring wife, mother, true friend to everyone, gracious lady, and a heart of undefinable magnitude. This world is a poorer place as a result of her passing.*

*I am truly sorry for your loss. Respectfully, Richard Ballou
Kitty Hawk, North Carolina*

Richard Ballou - February 06, 2016 at 11:39 PM

JD

“ *In the spring of 2012, I called Charlotte about getting our nursing class together for our 60th reunion from St. John's Hospital School of Nursing. She was thrilled that we were going to celebrate it. We set the date for September, and Charlotte immediately called Lamies Tavern, and we got a date and time. We split up the class list, and in a few days, we had everything settled. We had such a great time with our classmates, some we had not seen in years. Everyone enjoyed it so much, we made plans to meet again the following September, 2013. We also got together in 2014, and 2015. We shared four wonderful reunions with Charlotte, which we will all cherish forever. Rest in Peace Dear Friend. Love, Jean Dussault*

Jean Dussault - February 06, 2016 at 07:12 PM

RG

“ *Our condolences to the Preston Family.*

Randy and Tricia Gauron

Randy Gauron - February 06, 2016 at 06:48 PM

FB

“ I first met Charlotte in the summer of 77. I was dropped at the front door of the old Helena; literally hat in hand, a newly minted state trooper looking for a place to live while undergoing my initial field training. Unbeknownst to me, I wasn't expected.

Charlotte met me at the door, the two of us looking at each other with a healthy dose of skepticism. But Charlotte being Charlotte, had things firmly in control within a minute or two, reciting the litany of rules that I was to adhere to, showing me the room I was to use, and making it very clear that I was to toe the line in her house. (Not that I was intimidated, but it took me a couple of weeks to build up the nerve to ask her if my wife could visit me for a night. As I recall, she insisted on seeing our marriage certificate first.)

It turned out to be a great summer with Charlotte, Bob, and the whole Preston clan.

Judi and I continue to reflect fondly on our memories from that period in our lives.

Charlotte was a great lady, and a class act. She had a heart of gold, and once your friend, was a loyal and caring friend for life. Her personality would fill a room, and her inexorable gift to gab was the stuff of legend. Judi and I will always cherish her friendship.

Our most sincere condolences go out to Bob and the kids.
Frank and Judi Breen

Frank Breen - February 06, 2016 at 05:35 PM

PP

“ We are so sorry for your loss.
-Jim and Pamela Peacock and family

pamela peacock - February 06, 2016 at 05:07 PM

RJ

“ I lived with Charlotte and Bob for six years while I was a college student working in Bob's restaurant and Charlotte was a great woman--I baby sat for her in between shifts and she was just an amazing woman and wonderful to me and my parents. I have never forgotten her and her many kindnesses and her fantastic personality! No one was like her at all!

Rita A. Jensen - February 06, 2016 at 11:11 AM



“ Ghirardelli & Fruit Condolences Gift Basket was purchased for the family of Charlotte K. Preston.



February 06, 2016 at 10:25 AM



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Charlotte K. Preston.



February 06, 2016 at 09:24 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Charlotte K. Preston.



February 05, 2016 at 11:39 PM

G3

“ *Good Night Momma Day 3 lit a candle in memory of Charlotte K. Preston*



Good night Momma day 3 - February 05, 2016 at 11:04 PM



“ *Bountiful Rose Basket was purchased for the family of Charlotte K. Preston.*



February 05, 2016 at 06:10 PM

WC

“ *Such fond of memories growing up with all of you in the big house on Winnacunnet Rd, and of course the beach. Jimmy, you and I got into our share of trouble! Your Mom was always there with hugs and her big warm smile. With loving thoughts and condolences to all.*
Wendy (Codd) Chase

Wendy Chase - February 05, 2016 at 06:07 PM

KB

“ Dear Senator Preston & Family., We must now share this significant, amazing woman with the angles. She gave us so much. She will be so missed. Yet so much of her good works remain.. Growing up on the beach I have so many memories. Her coming in to see Mary & John Carderelli at the new Giovani's Restaurant, she knew all us kids who worked there. She knew what was going on and if not could find out. No mater where you were at the polls she knew if you were there or when you better get there. I always knew she was advocating for a greater good. I remember how she welcomed then Candidate Jimmy Carter to stay at your Hampton home during his first campaign for US President during NH's first in the nation primary. Little could she know that this would result in an invitation to the new President's White House Ball. Upon return my mother asked her what was it like to meet Mrs. Carter? She replied , " I was absolutely speechless.", conveying what an honor it was. She knew the real value of a woman. I so loved the Irish in her, the nurse, the business woman, the politician, the community advocate, the wife & mother, the woman she was when women were thought best silent and at home. I loved how she so fiercely loved you all. That will never end. God bless Charlotte K Preston! May her heavenly party begin.
With our special thoughts and prayers at this time,
"Kathleen" & Gary Bashline

Kate Bashline - February 05, 2016 at 01:07 PM

TR

“ The Poirier family, Fran and Ron purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Charlotte K. Preston.



The Poirier family, Fran and Ron - February 05, 2016 at 12:48 PM

KL

“ *Senator and family,*

We are very sad to hear about Charlotte. She was the best of everything, and no one could ever come close to her hard work for everything. There was never a charity or family in need that she didn't start a fund for.. When the phone would ring and you new it was Charlotte you never said hi, you just said how much Charlotte?

Senator, you were the luckiest man in the world to have Charlotte as a wife. She always was smiling and riding her bike and had a "hello" to everybody. And boy did she love the beach!

Again, we are very sorry, but we know that nobody will or can replace her.

Kevin & Eileen Loneragan

Kevin&Eileen Loneragan - February 05, 2016 at 12:40 PM

CJ

“ *I have many memories of Charlotte growing up on Salem St and at the old Helena. She attended the birth of my first child.*

cousin Frances Jean - February 05, 2016 at 11:54 AM

BW

“ *Senator Bob and family, we are so sorry to hear of Charlotte's passing. she was quite a lady and friend to all. Our prayers are with you all. Brian and Kim Warburton*

Brian Warburton - February 05, 2016 at 10:57 AM

JW

“ *Bob, Martha, & Family,
Bill & I are so very sorry for your loss. We have another Angel in Heaven. You all must be very proud of your Mom. We never met your Mom, however, the smile on her face show she led a very exciting life. God rest her soul.*

*Bill & Janet Woitkowski
Manchester, NH*

Janet Woitkowski - February 05, 2016 at 10:40 AM

KS

“ *Kristyn & Mike Sullivan purchased the Cherished Memories for the family of Charlotte K. Preston.*



Kristyn & Mike Sullivan - February 05, 2016 at 10:11 AM

LE

“ *Love Carl & Kara and your friends in New England purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Charlotte K. Preston.*



Love Carl & Kara and your friends in New England - February 05, 2016 at 09:16 AM

JL

“ To the entire Preston family. I did not have the honor of knowing your mom, but would want to emulate her. She was highly regarded by all and seems always gave of herself. The love story is wonderful and her smile in this photo showed her zest for life. May you know that she is in heaven, watching over all. Please know you are all in our prayers and thoughts. Sincerely, Judy and Dick Leclerc
Goffstown and Hampton

Judy Leclerc - February 05, 2016 at 07:53 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Charlotte K. Preston.



February 05, 2016 at 07:51 AM

RH

“ To Bob and family,
It appears that the descriptions of Charlotte have been expressed so accurately that there doesn't seem to be any further words sufficient to describe the consummate wife, mother, community contributor and all around great lady. Our thoughts and prayers to you all.

Roger and Jeannie Hammond

Roger Hammond - February 05, 2016 at 07:09 AM

MS

“ *Maureen Shea lit a candle in memory of Charlotte K. Preston*



Maureen Shea - February 05, 2016 at 01:08 AM

MS

My thoughts and prayers are with you. Sincerely, Maureen Shea

Maureen Shea - February 05, 2016 at 01:09 AM

SL

“ *Please accept my most sincere condolences on the loss of your wonderful dear, loving mother.*

Stephen LaBranche - February 04, 2016 at 10:48 PM

SM

“ *Sue Foote And Albert Mueller sent a virtual gift in memory of Charlotte K. Preston*



Sue Foote and Albert Mueller - February 04, 2016 at 09:09 PM

SM

So very sorry to hear that Charlotte has left this realm of existence and is on her way to learning how to soar on her wings in Heaven. Hugs, tears, and support for Senator Bob, Charlie, Martha-Anne and the rest of her great and grand family she leaves behind. Sue and Al

Sue Foote and Albert Mueller - February 04, 2016 at 09:22 PM

JP

“ *My DEEPEST condolences to Charlotte's family. Growing up at the beach, I knew her, as many did, as one of the family. That loud, bolstering laugh and smile, that is shown in this picture, is what us kids grew up with. You will be truly missed.*

Jason Page

Jason Page - February 04, 2016 at 09:06 PM

WG

“ *We Love You Gram lit a candle in memory of Charlotte K. Preston*



We love you gram - February 04, 2016 at 07:54 PM

DN

“ *Dear Mr. Preston and the Entire Preston Family:*

Diane and I would like to offer our deepest condolences at this most difficult of times! Mrs. Preston lived life to the fullest and created a wonderful family and legacy! May peace be with Her and the Family.

With Deepest Sympathy,

Dan & Diane Nersesian

Dan Nersesian - February 04, 2016 at 06:02 PM

LD

“ Back when Senator Bob was running for Governor, Charlotte asked me if I'd address some envelopes for the campaign. I was honored to have been asked and diligently went about my task and returned the finished work to Charlotte a few hours later. Here she was juggling a thousand tasks at once and up to her ears in her own work and when I gave her the envelopes you might have thought I donated body parts to the campaign. Charlotte praised me effusively and made me feel my miniscule effort was very important. I learned a valuable lesson that day about motivating people and appreciating their contributions. I also saw humility in action. She was probably doing ten times more work than anyone else but sought no validation. She preferred to bolster others. That's why there will be endless tributes to her and many fond memories and lots and lots of tears. I'm sure Charlotte left an impact on everyone who was privileged to meet her.

My heartfelt sympathy goes out to the Preston family in saying goodbye to such a wonderful woman. I hope it won't be long till happy memories of Charlotte replace the pain of her passing.

*With love,
Linda Desjardins*

Linda Desjardins - February 04, 2016 at 05:58 PM

#5

Humility in action....best ever thank you Linda

#5 - February 04, 2016 at 07:50 PM

SM

“ *Smuraco lit a candle in memory of Charlotte K. Preston*



smuraco - February 04, 2016 at 05:46 PM

MS

*My deepest sympathy. She was an awesome person. My fondest memories are of Hampton Beach the "Helena"
Love you
Marian Simard*

marian simard - February 05, 2016 at 01:47 PM

SM

“ *To Uncle Bob and the Preston Family,
May the many memories of a life shared with love and joy be your comfort and your strength. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.
With sympathy and love,
Susan and Joe Muraco and family*

smuraco - February 04, 2016 at 05:45 PM

DW

“ *so sorry for your loss, may the memories be eternal. Dave Wihby*

David Wihby - February 04, 2016 at 05:26 PM

LM

“ *Love You Mom! lit a candle in memory of Charlotte K. Preston*



Love you mom! - February 04, 2016 at 05:02 PM

SS

“ *Senator Bob Preston and the Preston family, our deepest condolences on Charlotte's passing. She most certainly was the "first lady of Hampton" and part of the greatest generation. God bless you all.*

*Skip & Charlotte Sullivan
(Cape Coral FL)*

Skip Sullivan - February 04, 2016 at 04:54 PM

MA

“ *my deepest sympathy, Edie Argo purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Charlotte K. Preston.*



my deepest sympathy, Edie Argo - February 04, 2016 at 04:14 PM

SP

“ *Skidders Quota Group Heritage Palms purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Charlotte K. Preston.*



Skidders Quota Group Heritage Palms - February 04, 2016 at 03:56 PM

BL

“ *Bob (Senator Preston) and family,
Our thoughts are with you at this time. Charlotte is in our thoughts
and prayers as we remember all the great things she has
accomplished to benefit others. We are all very fortunate to have
known her.*

*Bob Lister
Portsmouth*

Bob Lister - February 04, 2016 at 03:30 PM

Y1

“ *Your friends from Heritage Palms, building 12
purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the
family of Charlotte K. Preston.*



Your friends from Heritage Palms, building 12 - February 04,
2016 at 02:49 PM

RB

“ *I was sad to learn of Charlotte's passing Bob. She had a wonderful
and pleasing personality. Please know that she will be in my
thoughts and prayers. My condolences to you and your entire
family.*

*Bob Bossie
Fort Lauderdale, Florida*

Robert Bossie - February 04, 2016 at 01:32 PM

AK

“Charlotte was an amazing, hard-working woman. She contributed so much to the entire Hampton community, and was a good friend who brought much joy and laughter to the many folks with whom she came in contact. She will truly be missed. My condolences to her family and friends.

Ann Kaiser

Ann Kaiser - February 04, 2016 at 10:01 AM