



Claire Ann (Gagne) St. Martin

January 27, 1936 - January 13, 2024

Hampton – Claire Ann (Gagne) St. Martin, (87) of Hampton, passed away peacefully on Saturday, January 13, 2024, at Webster at Rye. She was the loving wife of Leo St. Martin.

Claire was born on January 27, 1936, in East Douglas, MA., to the late Marie Antoinette (Roy) Gagne and Clarence Armand Gagne.

Raised and educated in Douglas, Massachusetts, Claire attended Douglas Memorial High School, graduating in the class of 1953. From there, she went on to study at the Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, class of 1956, completing her RN certification while working at the Memorial Hospital.

On June 20, 1959, Claire married Leo Irving St Martin, Jr. and together they began their devoted lives together in a small home on Dearborn Ave in Hampton, NH. Claire and Leo had four children, Christine, John, Paul, and Matthew. Life in the peaceful town of Hampton was filled with quiet summers near the beach with time for swing sets, sandboxes, and chasing the music of the ice cream truck.

As the family grew, Claire and Leo took the next step by building a new home together and moving into the pleasant neighborhood of homes on Taylor Street. Claire quickly became well known and loved among the welcoming

neighborhood of families. Claire cherished each new and lasting bond of friendship as she enjoyed hosting the growing circle of friends and together, they watched over the thriving children who shared every yard on the street while they played all day outdoors. The Taylor Street village of families formed lifelong friendships, frequently rushing back to meet at the “big rock” behind the St. Martin’s house sharing snacks and drinks, listening for the ice cream truck, or for a picnic lunch hosted by Claire. Occasionally some form of minor first aid might be needed, and Claire was sought out by all who knew her to be a truly caring mother to all and as she was the gentlest nurse, calmly offering to provide comfort for everyone in need. Claire and Leo shared many years of memorable holidays, lobster-bakes, and family gatherings while raising their blessed and happy family in Hampton.

In 1975, Claire and Leo moved to the Linden Hill Farm, on South Road in North Hampton, NH. The huge house and barn, vast yard and trees provided the family the opportunity to embarked on another American Dream in the form of life on a New England farm. Claire found greatest joy in keeping the small but lively homestead in North Hampton. Claire had a passion for cooking and baking in the large country kitchen and she always kept the growing family well fed. The farmhouse was always filled with family, friends, and guests. Soon there were gardens and ever-growing herds of sheep, goats, rabbits, and chickens. This love of life on the small farm also grew a beloved circle of new and dear friends who shared a passion for the 70’s trend toward a homesteading lifestyle. Claire and Leo maintained the valued family tradition of annual gatherings, and these grew to be grand events hosted at “The Linden Hill Farm”, where extended family and friends from far and near felt welcomed and loved as they were all blessed by the banquet from Claires kitchen and the kind and truly caring heart of Claire St. Martin.

By the late Fall of 1986, Claire and Leo began a new chapter in their lives. Claire’s enduring love of the Seacoast Community brought them full circle and

back to the heart of the small town of Hampton. They moved to a beautiful home on Towle Avenue, located within walking distance of their church and the Town Square. Claire continued to bring family and friends together each Season for gatherings such as the annual backyard "Octoberfest". Claire and Leo began to travel to faraway destinations each year. Claire's love for her husband, her family and her friends are a lasting beacon we may look to and feel hope and comfort.

Working for many years at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Parish, Claire was a kind, caring and welcoming soul to so many members of our Hampton parish community. (Retired)

A founding member of the St Vincent De Paul Society, Claire worked with the Society since the inception in 1989 with devoted service through to her retirement honors celebration. (Retired 2020)

In addition to her husband Leo St. Martin, Claire is survived by her children, Christine Carberry of Rye, John St. Martin and his wife Marie of Whitefield NH, and Matthew St. Martin of Hampton. Claire is also survived by her five beloved grandchildren, Joseph, Rachel, Amanda, Jennie, and Sarah. She is also survived by her brother Charles Gagne and his wife Martha of Westborough, MA, and four nieces, Renee, Lynn, Melissa, and Julia.

In addition to her parents, Claire was predeceased by her son Paul St. Martin and her son-in-law Tim Carberry.

Family and friends will gather to honor and remember Claire for a graveside service on Sunday, April 7, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at High Street Cemetery, 150 High Street, Hampton, NH 03842. All are welcome to attend. .

In lieu of flowers please consider a donation to the Vincent De Paul Society of

Hampton by
clicking here (<https://svdphampton.com/donate/>)

Previous Events

Graveside Service

APR 7. 11:00 AM (ET)

High Street Cemetery
150 High Street
Hampton, NH

Tribute Wall



“ Claire was one of those rare individuals who quietly cared for all those she met and never seemed to want anything but the best for people. I have many wonderful memories of my time with them out on the farm. Love and hugs to Leo and the family.
Betsy Biernik

Elisabeth Biernik - January 27, 2024 at 08:54 PM



“ One of the sweetest woman I have ever had the pleasure to have known. Always had an infectious smile and a snack when visiting. She will be missed. Godspeed to Matt, Christy, John and Leo.
John and Cindy Cardellicchio

John cardellicchio - January 19, 2024 at 09:27 AM



“ Mike and I pray for Leo and his Family 🙏.
Claire was such a Loving and Caring person.
We offer our Deepest Sympathies,
Joanne and Mike Haddad

Joanne Woods Haddad - January 17, 2024 at 02:11 AM



“ My sincere condolences to Leo and Family from a friend of Claire since the student nurse days at the Memorial Hospital, Worcester, MA. Birute Jasutis Prasauskas, Lomita, CA

Birute Prasauskas - January 16, 2024 at 10:32 PM

BP

“ I am so sorry to hear of Claire’s death. My memory of her is so happy. She gave so much to others and always had a smile on her face. My sincerest sympathies to the family. She will be missed but memories will live on.

Barbara Preston - January 16, 2024 at 06:15 PM

JM

“ Love you Aunt Claire. You will be missed.



Julia Moisiades - January 16, 2024 at 05:54 PM

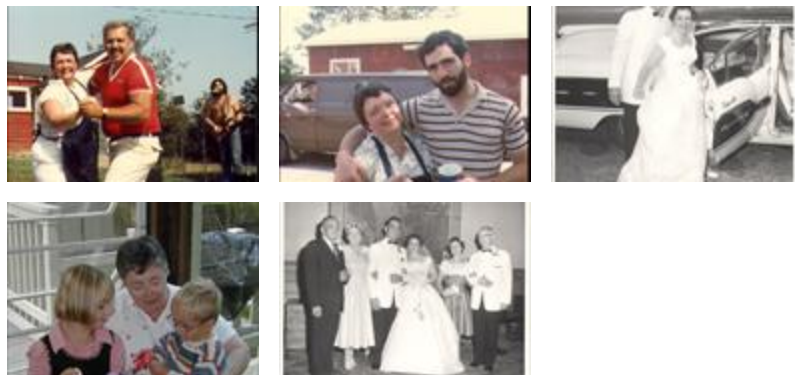
GS

“ Words escape me. I am heartbroken. One truly remarkable woman. Rest in peace beloved child of God.

George Salzer - January 16, 2024 at 04:43 PM

JM

“ 7 files added to the album Memories of Claire



John St Martin - January 16, 2024 at 04:13 PM

JM

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



John St Martin - January 16, 2024 at 04:06 PM

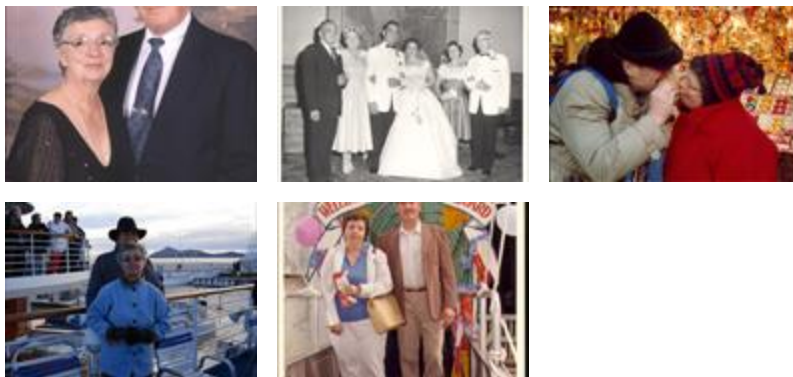
CD

“ A beautiful lady is now gracing heaven! Claire was my secretary at OLMM when I took over the religious Ed department. She was an invaluable resource, and I learned so much from her. Our friendship continued through the years, and when I moved away Christmas cards with shepherds and lambs, always came to each of our homes as we shared our love of lambs. May you rest in peace, dear Claire. You are now enjoying your fifth day - De Colores!! Love from claudette

claudette dachowski - January 16, 2024 at 04:06 PM



“ 7 files added to the album Claire & Leo Plus



Matthew St.Martin - January 16, 2024 at 03:22 PM

TD

Beautiful pictures! So sorry for your loss

Terry Driscoll - January 16, 2024 at 04:03 PM

MC

So sorry for your loss. Claire was a friend and a woman of strong faith. She was always smiling . I'll cherish the times we shared at our Cursillo prayer meetings.

Mary Lou Carr

Mary Lou Carr - January 16, 2024 at 07:01 PM

CG

Thank you all for your kind comments. Claire was a special soul. Always caring about others. I will miss her. Brother Butch.

Charles Gagne - January 17, 2024 at 09:32 AM

LH

So very sorry to hear about the passing of Claire, she was a very kind soul and will be missed by many.

Lisa Hurrell - January 17, 2024 at 11:25 AM

SN

My dear St. Martins,

The joy and laughter Claire brought to all she met, wherever she went enriched us all. You all may not have known, but Claire was a giant. She stood tall in her love of her never wavering support of not just her family, but of those she saw as supporter of her kids.

Our first meeting was at a Catholic Women's Club meeting in December of 1971. A group of HAJH Chorus members gave a performance that was a prelude of the coming concert. 52 years later, her note from that evening is among my most treasured possessions. Leo and Claire were among the staunchest of supporters for the HAJH music program. They never wavered, not for a moment. And no one was more grateful for their love and support as I.

You must know that Claire has already joined the funnest choir of angels in the heavens. And she is singing, laughing, and loving her promised new life.

I will keep my memories of Claire close to my heart to my last breath. The angels have indeed walked her into paradise. Our pain of loss is balanced by Heaven's gain. Much love to you all. Love, Sheila

Sheila Linehan Nudd - January 18, 2024 at 04:44 PM

MB

So sad to learn Claire passed away. I was blessed to know her in our parish office at OLMM, but more intimately as she shared her faith with me and many others as my Confirmation teacher. I loved my times at the farm with such a warm and loving family. It was always a treasure to see the St. Martins together at Mass or on their walks around town. They would always stop for a chat filled with smiles, well wishes and lovely memories. I felt a special bond with Claire when I, too became a Registered Nurse. I am grateful to Claire for so much encouragement, her many examples of her unwavering faith, and especially her commit to her family and her Church family! Requiesce in pace 🙏

Love, Mary Cahill Baptiste

Mary Baptiste - January 21, 2024 at 09:25 PM

SN

We were Claire & Leo's first "pre cana" couple in 1976. They were two of the happiest and most sincere people we ever knew. No matter where we saw them, they would always hug us and stop and catch up. We always walked away after our chat feeling so lucky to have them as friends. Theirs was (is Leo) a friendship that has lasted a lifetime. Sending our love and sympathy to Leo and the family. P.S. We miss seeing Leo on his daily walks around the cemetery.

Stacy and Debbie Noyes - February 19, 2024 at 11:53 AM