



Elaine Marie Dray

April 6, 1926 - October 29, 2024

Stratham – Elaine Marie Dray, passed away peacefully on October 29, 2024, at the age of 98. Born on April 6, 1926, in Worcester, MA, Elaine was the cherished only child of the late Leo and Mary Violet (Palmer) McDonough. She shared a loving marriage of 64 years with her husband, Robert J. Dray, until his passing in 2015.

Elaine grew up in Worcester, MA, and after graduating from Worcester State Teacher's College, she dedicated herself to teaching 5th-grade English. In November 1951, she married Bob and devoted her life to raising their family. As a mother of eight, Elaine's greatest joy was being with her family. Her imagination was on great display over the years cooking wonderful homemade dinners, including desserts, for a family of 10 (sometimes more!). Her heart and soul were in the loving care of making Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and family birthdays memorable. Elaine, known to us as Mom, loved the ocean and many enjoyed rides with her along the New Hampshire and Maine seacoasts, appreciating the beauty in that love.

She loved excursions driving down Cape Cod 6A, visiting the Mansfield Country Store and the Village Barn. She was passionate about Boston sports, especially the Larry Bird Celtics era and the Tom Brady Patriots. The first snowfall of the year thrilled her.

Elaine personified “content” in all things. She was always sending thoughtful cards and notes. Goodbyes after family and friend visits often included tears. Elaine was a quiet, yet strong, intelligent, articulate, wise, witty woman, who gave her best, especially to those she loved. She will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her children: Joanie M. Dray of Stratham, NH, Dr. Robert J. Dray and wife Deborah of Centerville, VA, Mark E. Dray and wife Susan of Easton, MA, Carol E. Greise and husband Mark of Santa Barbara, CA, Mary E. O’Connor and husband Walter of Westwood, MA, Deborah Gardiner and husband Kelly of Duncan, SC, Martha J. Dray and longtime partner Sherry Sabins of Groveland, MA, and Paul J. Dray of Napa, CA. Elaine also leaves behind seven grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and her heart adopted son Randy Brown, all of whom brought immense joy to her life. She was recently predeceased by Paul’s wife, Colleen Dray.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday, November 8, 2024, at 11:00 AM at Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church, Hampton, NH. Elaine will be laid to rest next to her beloved husband, Robert, in Calvary Cemetery, Portsmouth, NH. In lieu of flowers, donations in Elaine's memory may be made to Beacon Hospice by clicking here (<https://regions.billeriq.com/ebpp/AmedisysFoun/>) honoring the compassionate care they provided.

Cemetery Details

Calvary Cemetery

Rt 33, Greenland, Rd.
Portsmouth, NH 03801

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

NOV 8. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church
289 Lafayette Rd
Hampton, NH 03842

Tribute Wall



“ I was so sadden to hear of your mom's passing. Such a wonderful woman with who I always think of with a smile on her face. I know my mom will be welcoming her cousin in heaven :) xoxo, Amy

Amy - January 11, 2025 at 02:30 PM



Thank you Amy. I just saw your comment because I was picking up my Mom's death certificate and needed to look up a date. I miss her everyday as I'm sure you do with your Mom. Lots of Love to you. 💙
Martha Dray

Martha Dray - January 29, 2025 at 01:43 PM



“ Days of Sunshine Bouquet was purchased for the family of Elaine Marie Dray.



November 06, 2024 at 08:37 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Elaine Marie Dray.

November 06, 2024 at 08:37 PM



“ *Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses was purchased for the family of Elaine Marie Dray.*



November 06, 2024 at 05:00 PM



“ *The AI Dray Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Elaine Marie Dray.*

The AI Dray Family - November 06, 2024 at 03:13 PM



“ *The AI Dray Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Elaine Marie Dray.*



The AI Dray Family - November 06, 2024 at 03:13 PM

JD

“ I have tears of sadness missing you, Mama,
and
I have a lifetime of tears of JOYOUS
memories of
the loving gifts you bestowed on each one of
your children and Dad. 💖

Your love for our family was always unconditional, thought filled for
presenting special joy to each
individual child at and during their milestones of life - Happy
Birthdays, all our traditional family celebrated holidays; and
especially, in all of your lifetime, Mom, your encouraging love for
each of your children during our struggles and achievements
throughout our lives.

I pray with thanksgiving to Our Heavenly Father, Jesus-Our Savior,
and the Holy Spirit-Our Counselor, Our Strength, Our Guide for the
blessing of a truly anointed gift- Our earthly
parents- Elaine and Robert, Mom & Dad. 🕊️💖

God Bless you forever Mom and Dad,
And God bless our family forever. Amen 🙏

All my love Mama,
Joanie 🌸💖🌸



Joanie Dray - November 02, 2024 at 02:50 PM

MD

“ I loved every minute of every game, The
Best Is Yet to Be" My Mom's written words to
me after my last High School Basketball
Game. She didn't miss one game in my four
years of High School. I was a fortunate child
to be born to my Mom & Dad. Grateful is an understatement. I love
you Mom.



Martha Dray - November 01, 2024 at 05:20 PM