



Mary Jane Williams

June 11, 1933 - October 12, 2024

Durham - Mary Jane (Rowsom) Williams, a beloved mother, grandmother, and friend, passed away peacefully on October 12, 2024, at the age of 91. Born on June 11, 1933, in Glen Cove, New York, she was the daughter of Dr. Alfred Franklin Rowsom and Florence (Garlock) Rowsom, and sister of George Rowsom and his wife Andrea.

MJ was a graduate of Friends Academy in Locust Valley, NY, and Centenary Junior College in Hackettstown, New Jersey. She married Jack F. Williams and moved to Hampton in 1968. Mary Jane dedicated several years as a Clerk and advocate at the Hampton District Court. She was a vibrant member of the Hampton Public Library, as well as a volunteer docent at Odiorne Point State Park and a member of the Hampton Bridge Club. MJ was best known for her caring, generosity, and warm laugh. She was a second mother to many of the neighborhood children and to two foster children.

Mary Jane is survived by her Son, Charles A. Lees and his wife Brenda Scheufele, Daughters, Melissa R. Lees and her partner Herb Chambers, and Amanda F. Williams and her partner John Kuhry, as well as her grandchildren Lucky Hana (McLaren) Prawdzik and husband Daniel, T. Jack McLaren, and Raisa E. Lees. She was preceded in death by her husband, John "Jack" Williams, and her daughter, Deborah B. Lees.

Mary Jane will be deeply missed but fondly remembered for her, gourmet cooking, her impeccable taste, her amazing gardens, her voracious love of books, puzzles, and games, and her generosity of spirit, but most of all for her unwavering love for her family. reminding us all to embrace life with open arms and a warm heart. Her legacy of kindness, laughter, and love will forever remain in the hearts of those whose life is immeasurably better for having known her. In lieu of flower donations can be made to the New Hampshire SPCA by clicking here (<https://nhspca.org/donate-today/>) or Doctor without Borders by clicking here (https://donate.doctorswithoutborders.org/secure/lebanon-rr-donate-web?_gl=1*i53h2f*_gcl_au*ODEyMjUwOTQuMTcyOTg2MTk3Mg..*_ga*MTc4MjY1MzY4LjE3Mjk4NjE5NzI.*_ga_C7EW6Q0J9K*MTcyOTg2MTk3Mi4xLjAuMTcyOTg2MTk3OS41My4wLjA).

Tribute Wall

CW

“ *A lovely woman lingers in my memory.*
Carter

Carter Wentworth - December 22, 2025 at 05:43 PM

IC

“ *I am sorry to hear of MaryJanes passing,,, we worked together at the Hampton District Court, we lost touch after awhile , I loved spending time with Mary Jane outside of Court also ,, she taught me how to make pate,, which led to my wanting to learn more about cooking, which she was willing to teach me!!!*
Mary Jane stepped up to be a Foster Parent when no one else could,,, as Judge Frazier would say Mary Jane was a ANGEL OF THE SYSTEM! My sympathy to you Chuck, Missy and Amanda and your families,,
Belle Coyne

Isabel Coyne - October 29, 2024 at 09:40 AM

CL

Thank you Belle. I remember mom talking highly of you. Chuck

charles lees - June 12, 2025 at 05:38 AM

ML

Belle thank you. She adored you and I'm know was happy to teach all of us some wonderful recipes. Thank you for the thoughtful note. Missy

Melissa Lees - August 25, 2025 at 10:40 AM

MW

“ I first met Mary Jane when I had her sweet son, Chuck in my 5th grade class. Later I reconnected with her through the Friends of the Lane Library, and we had some hilarious and fun times taking part in the fashion shows. I would also run into her at the town office. She was one of the funniest and kindest people I ever knew, and I know that she will be missed but will leave many people with great memories

Martha C Williams - October 29, 2024 at 09:33 AM

CL

Martha, thank you for the kind words about mom. But I don't remember being a sweet kid. In fact I was a lot of trouble! I remember you well. You were my favorite teacher by far. Chuck

charles lees - June 12, 2025 at 05:42 AM

DM

“ "Aunt MaryJane" as I always knew her, always showed me love and attention. She always wanted to hear about what was going on in my life. I don't think it was exclusive to me, as there was always someone that she was caring for. I will miss her adventurous spirit along with being a grounded person. To all my "cousins" in her family, I send out the deepest of love and good wishes. The best of Maryjane will live in all of our hearts!

Dan Murphy - October 27, 2024 at 05:52 PM

CL

Thank you cousin Dan. No doubt mom was the glue that kept everyone together.

charles lees - June 12, 2025 at 05:44 AM