



Shirley Ann Casella

August 31, 1931 - November 17, 2021

Rye – Shirley Ann Casella, 90, of Rye and formerly of Dover, Portsmouth, and Kittery, ME, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, November 17, 2021, surrounded by her loving family, at Webster at Rye where she had been living due to declining health. Shirley was born in Dover on August 31, 1931, the daughter of the late Edward J. and Ethel (Gault) Renaud. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of over 38 years, Emilio “Tony” Casella who died in 2019.

Shirley was raised in Dover, graduated from Dover High with the Class of 1948 and went on to earn her nursing degree from Wentworth Hospital School of Nursing in 1951. She married Robert O’Leary in 1952 and relocated to Portsmouth to raise her family and begin her 40-year career as a maternity nurse with Portsmouth Hospital. Shirley was a fan favorite of many moms in the Seacoast area!

Shirley and Tony married in 1980 and moved to Kittery where they would spend their summers and enjoyed their winters in Davenport, FL. In her spare time, Shirley enjoyed reading, knitting, and crocheting, working jigsaw puzzles and playing BINGO.

Shirley is survived by her children, Robert O’Leary, Jr. and wife Laura of Rochester, Linda Graves and husband Jay and Patricia Watson and husband

Rob all of Greenland, Michael Casella and wife Denise of Watertown, MA and Jill Ferguson and husband John of Gilford. She also leaves her 13 grandchildren, 16 great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents and her husbands, Shirley was predeceased by her brother, Edward Renaud and daughter Toni Jean (Casella) Leonard.

Shirley's family would like to sincerely thank the staff at Webster at Rye and Beacon Hospice for their loving and attentive care of her.

A private service will be held at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial donations to The Rannie Webster Foundation (<https://www.websteratrye.com/donate-volunteer/make-a-gift/>)

Tribute Wall



“ *Shirley Ann Casella*

September 18, 2022 at 12:49 AM



“ *Always loved her, she worked in maternity with my Mom, Mary Donnell. She was such a spitfire! She will be missed. ❤️ Prayers to you all.*

joanne lamoureux - November 29, 2021 at 08:51 PM



“ *I have wonderful memories of Shirley from the old Portsmouth Hospital.
She had a wonderful personality and all the babies loved her ❤️
May she Rest In Peace
Kathy Thomson*

kathleen Thomson - November 22, 2021 at 09:59 AM



“ *So sorry to hear of your loss may she rest in peace. We will be thinking of you in this difficult time.
Ken and Donna Durell*

ken and donna durell - November 21, 2021 at 07:14 AM

DK

“ I'd known Shirley for almost 59 years. She was my mom's friend and became mine. She was with me after and during my daughter and son's birth and was the epitome of a wonderful nurse. Later I was privileged to do her hair for many years. I'm so sorry for her family. May she RIP and her memory be eternal.

Dena Kent - November 20, 2021 at 07:04 PM

DP

“ Donna Pike lit a candle in memory of Shirley Ann Casella



Donna Pike - November 20, 2021 at 11:41 AM

JA

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Jill Ann - November 20, 2021 at 09:37 AM

NC

“ I reconnected with Shirley only last year through Google. I had not seen her since childhood. We were first cousins on the Renaud side and our Dads were brothers. We had many interesting chats on the phone as we were both retired R.N.s Despite her illness she remained alert and friendly. I will miss her. Sympathy is extended to her family.

Nola Chaisson - November 20, 2021 at 09:19 AM