



Joyce Anne Noel

November 28, 1932 - February 13, 2019

Joyce Anne Noel, resident of Estero, FL and Warwick, RI, beloved wife of Governor Philip W. Noel, passed peacefully on Wednesday, February 13, 2019 in Estero, FL.

Born in Providence, RI, Joyce was the daughter of Walter and Genevieve (Healey) Sandberg. Joyce was known for her beauty and grace. She was crowned Miss Rhode Island in 1953 and participated in the Miss America Pageant. She went on to become Miss Rhode Island USA and competed in the 1954 Miss USA Pageant.

On October 20, 1956, Joyce married the love of her life, Philip. She became the First Lady of Rhode Island when Philip became governor of the state in 1973. Joyce enjoyed supporting her husband's endeavors, and she played an instrumental role in his successful political career.

Joyce was a loving wife, mother, grandmother and friend. She enjoyed sailing, golfing and playing Bridge. She was an active member of Saint Kevin Church in Warwick, RI, Warwick Country Club, Our Lady of Light Catholic Community in Ft. Myers, FL, and Wildcat Run Country Club in Estero, FL. Some of Joyce's favorite passions were entertaining, cooking and baking for family and friends. Her happiest times were those when she was surrounded by those she loved.

In addition to her husband she is survived by three daughters and one son: Linda J. Hirst of Wakefield, RI, Lori A. Noel of Warwick, RI and Naples, FL, Joanne N. Listro of Attleboro, MA, and Joseph W. Noel of Naples, FL. She was predeceased by her son, Thomas P. Noel. She was blessed with eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Joyce will be remembered for her elegance, kindness, generosity and compassion for others.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday, February 25, 2019 at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Light Catholic Church, 19680 Cypress View Drive, Ft. Myers.

In April the family will announce plans for a celebration of Joyce's life which will be held in Warwick in May.

In lieu of flowers, kindly consider donations to St. Kevin Church, Our Lady of Light or your local community food bank.

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home - Family Owned Since 1978.

Cemetery Details

Swan Point Cemetery

585 Blackstone Boulevard
Providence, RI 02906

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

FEB **25**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Our Lady of Light Catholic Community
19680 Cypress View Dr
Fort Myers, FL 33967-6201
(239) 267-7088

Tribute Wall



“ *Joyce Anne Noel*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *We were sorry to hear of the loss of Joyce, our condolences to you and your family.*

Mike and Kay Kerrigan

Michael Kerrigan - July 02, 2019 at 11:51 AM



“ *Dear Phil.
Sending you and your entire family our heartfelt condolences.
Nothing is more painful in life as the loss of a jewel.
With our love and warm hugs.
Dr. Bill and Jane Van Haaren.*

Dr. Bill and Jane Van Haaren - July 01, 2019 at 03:24 PM



“ *My sincerest condolences to you, Lori, and the entire Noel family on the loss of your dear mom. Remember all the good times you shared. ~ Joel Johnson*

Joel Johnson - July 01, 2019 at 07:22 AM



“ *Dear Phil: I am sorry to hear of your wife's passing. You and your family are in our prayers. Your friend, Frank M. Foley*

Frank M Foley - June 27, 2019 at 03:55 PM

PM

“ ON BEHALF OF THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS, NEWPORT AND THE MURPHY FAMILY OF FIFTH WARD SQUARE, CONDOLENCES GOVERNOR AND ALL THE FAMILY ON THE DEATH OF ONE FINE LADY, JOYCE. MAY GOD JOYCE AND ALL THE NOEL-SANDBERG FAMILY IN THE HALLOW OF HIS HAND.

PATRICK F. MURPHY - June 27, 2019 at 09:33 AM

BW

“ To the Noel family,
We are so sorry to hear of your loss of Joyce. She was such a devoted wife and mother. She was also a wonderful neighbor, friend and golf pal. Joyce will be greatly missed by all those that were fortunate enough to have known her.
God bless your family,
Barbara Warnock and family, Karen- Susan & Damon- Donna & Stephen

Barbara Warnock - February 20, 2019 at 12:40 PM

PR

“ Governor Noel, Beverly and I extend our heartfelt sympathy to you and family on the loss of your beautiful and always most friendly wife, Joyce. Life without leaves a huge void in your life. I trust that the many fond memories you will have will give you strength in the future without her. My best personal regards.

Peter Rosedale

Peter K. Rosedale - February 20, 2019 at 12:22 PM

JO

“ Governor Noel and family,
Ann and I send our condolences on the passing of Joyce. We are so sorry for the loss. What a wonderful legacy she left in her family and the State of Rhode Island. May happy memories help to carry you through this sad time. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and you.

John O'Leary - February 20, 2019 at 10:20 AM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Joyce Anne Noel.



February 20, 2019 at 09:49 AM

PS

“ Phil, Joe, Lori and the entire Noel family, no words can express our condolences and sympathies deeply enough at the tragic loss of Joyce. Elegance, grace, caring and kindness are just a few of the thoughts that come to mind when we think of her. Always a smile, always a kind word, always a gentle touch. May she be enjoying eternal peace as she certainly defined here in our lives. Please know you're all in our thoughts and prayers at this tremendously difficult time. God bless. Phil & Lauren Slocum

Phil & Lauren Slocum - February 19, 2019 at 06:09 PM

KM

“ I have many nice memories of Joyce as a high school classmate, and we even dated a few times in 1951. Always ready with a cheerful greeting and a smile. Also wishing Phil peace and comfort. Joyce was the prettiest drum majorette at Aldrich H. S.

Ken Moffat

ken Moffat - February 19, 2019 at 05:17 PM



“ Joyce regularly came in to Great Clips to see Priscilla. I am also a stylist at Great clips, and over time my weekly quick conversation with Joyce while she waits was something I looked forward to. Whether it was catching up on the week or maybe she would give me a quick hand squeeze and said “you’re doing such a good job sweetie” or “that guy you just did looked 100% times better after you got a hold of him” .. she always put a smile on my face. Ive only done her hair once but will miss her company in the salon.. She would always talk about her family and how important family was, and would remember to ask how my trips home were. I’m blessed to have gotten to know Joyce, in my own little way. Prayers to you all, RIP Joyce ❤️

Libby Guldenbecker - February 18, 2019 at 10:06 PM

AA

“ Dear Phil and family:
We are profoundly sorry. God Bless,

Anthony & Joan Arico

Anthony & Joan Arico - February 18, 2019 at 11:05 AM

ER

“ With deepest sympathy to Phil and the Noel family. We remember Joyce with much fondness. In all respects, Joyce was a truly gracious and beautiful person. We share the sadness of your loss. May she rest in peace. Ed and Ellen Riley (Australia)

Ed and Ellen Riley - February 17, 2019 at 01:10 AM

JB

“ Dear Phil & Family, We would like to send our deepest sympathy to all of you. You are in our thoughts and prayers. Gene & Jeanette Bucci

Jeanette Bucci - February 16, 2019 at 10:03 PM

SV

“ Phil, our sincere condolences to you and the family. Our remembrances of Joyce include her endearing sweet smile and her elegance. May her memory be eternal. Peter and Stella Vassilopoulos

Stella and Peter Vassilopoulos - February 16, 2019 at 08:43 PM

EC

“ Our most sincere condolences.
Elmer & Frances Cobb
Naples, Fl and Warwick, RI

Elmer T Cobb - February 16, 2019 at 11:02 AM

JP

Our deepest sympathy, Phil to you and the family. Cherish your memories. God Bless
Joe & Carolyn Piscopio
Hernando, Fl.

Joseph Piscopio - February 16, 2019 at 03:41 PM

LC

“ Please accept our most sincere sympathy on Joyce's passing. We cherish our times together and pray the memories of the wonderful times you had with her, will remain with you always. May she rest in peace. Our love and prayers,
Lil and Jack Clegg, Naples, Florida

Lillian and Jack Clegg - February 16, 2019 at 10:44 AM

VD

“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Noel family. We have lots of great memories of Joyce as we sat and watched our sons play hockey. Her warmth and beauty will last forever in our hearts. *The D'Abrosca family.*



Vars D'Abrosca - February 16, 2019 at 09:27 AM

JH

“ So sorry for your loss. I pray your family may find a healing power.
Jerry M. Hatfield



Jerry M. Hatfield - February 16, 2019 at 09:02 AM

RP

“ Dear Phil and all Family Members:

I am deeply saddened to receive word of Joyce's death. She was always vivacious and had a real presence when she walked into a room. She lit it up!

We have fond memories of Joyce here at St. Andrew Church, Block Island. Truly faithful to her Faith and its practice in the Catholic Church. Both she and Phil were participating, summer visitors. I am touched by her sure remembrance of Tommy by requesting a Mass be offered in his memory every year. Her support never wavered. God, take this good and faithful lady into your loving embrace for all eternity. Bless each of us now through Joyce's prayers and intercession. My the peace that passes all understanding be with each of you. now and in the days to come.

Fr. Joe Protano

Rev. Joseph Protano - February 16, 2019 at 07:50 AM

NC

“ To all of the Noel family, my deepest sympathy. Thoughts and prayers are with you through this sad time.

Nina Catanzaro



Nina Catanzaro - February 16, 2019 at 07:49 AM