



Ruth Ann Knowles

November 21, 1941 - March 19, 2026

Ruth Ann (Kennedy) Knowles passed away peacefully at her home in Estero, Florida, on Thursday, March 19, 2026, of cancer. She was born on November 21, 1941, in New Haven, CT, to John Raymond Kennedy (“Ray”) and Ruth Clara (Krause) Kennedy. She grew up in Hamden, CT, attending St. Mary’s Catholic school in New Haven. After high school, she began working at Southern New England Telephone (SNET) and other “baby bell” companies, eventually making punch cards for computers. While at SNET she met James Harry Knowles (“Jim”) of Eastham, MA, and they married in 1965. Jim’s work at SNET and then AT&T brought them to New Jersey, where they resided first in Red Bank, and later in Tewksbury Township. By then they had adopted a little girl from South Korea, Kimberly Ann Knowles. Ruth Ann became a homemaker and devoted herself to raising Kimberly. The Knowles family bought a vacation home in Bonita Bay, Bonita Springs, FL, in 1989. Ruth Ann and Jim divorced after 47 years of marriage, and Ruth Ann settled in Estero, FL. Ruth Ann was known by her friends as energetically generous and hospitable, impeccably dressed, and an avid shopper. She loved trying new restaurants and cuisines, going out shopping, and having coffee and gelato. She doted on her two grandsons, Anthony and Tommy, shopping for them and taking them out to her favorite restaurants. Ruth Ann is survived by her daughter Kimberly Nico (Phillip), grandsons Anthony and Tommy, sister Nancy Sansevieri and niece Ashley (Sansevieri) Skiba (Tyler).

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