



Evelyn Marie Riley

December 3, 1928 - January 1, 2017

Evelyn Riley passed away January 1, 2017 at the home of her son, where she spent the last two weeks of her remarkable life in the loving and devoted care of her daughters and daughter-in-law, and steeped in the deep affection of her family and friends.

Born Evelyn Marie Groth on December 3, 1928, she was raised in St. Louis, Missouri, but lived in Cape Girardeau long enough to have it become her realistic and beloved homeplace.

Evelyn married James Walsh Riley at St. Pius V Catholic Church in St. Louis on Thanksgiving Day 1951. Together they raised three children: James Walsh Riley, Jr. (Michaele) of Cape Girardeau; Bridget Ann Gilbert (John) of Webster Groves; and Mary Beth Booker (Tom) of St. Charles. She was the very proud grandmother of ten grandchildren: Erin, Emma, Abby (Mary Beth); Kate, Ryan, Nick (Bridget); Luke, Anthony, Alyson and Hannah (Jim); and five great grandchildren (James, Michael, Leo, Harrison and Drake).

Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband; mother and father, Isabelle and Lee Groth; sister Dolores Groth Hall; and two brothers, Mel Groth and Ralph Groth. In addition to her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren, she is survived by her older brother, Lee Groth of Cape Girardeau.

Evelyn was a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Cape Girardeau for more than 50 years. She loved the Mass, the Eucharist, the Scriptures, the Church, the Communion of Saints, the Angels, the Sacraments, the Parishioners, the Clergy, Religious and Holy Father, the Blessed Mother - but far above all - she loved the Holy Trinity; God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and her beloved Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

She also loved life. She prayed every day in gratitude for her life, her faith, her family, her friends, and for being born in the United States of America.

A sports enthusiast and lifelong Cardinals fan, Evelyn was an accomplished cook, seamstress and card player. She cherished her bridge club relationships, with partners and friendships spanning several decades. As recently as mid-December, Evelyn was part of point-leading teams of at least two bridge clubs.

Over the past 20 years, Evelyn cultivated the art of knitting and her original, unique and stylish Knits By Evelyn could be found as purses, scarves, sweaters, newborn caps and special outfits commissioned for well grand-parented grandchildren.

There are many who would assert she had perfected being a mother, grandmother, aunt and friend, always seeming to provide just the right amount of dialogue, laughter, advice, consoling, encouragement, and, when needed, lemon meringue pie.

A glimpse of her unfailing character is found in the grace and dignity she maintained through her final days. When told she was terminally ill, she thanked the doctor for discovering the original tumor, thus helping her enjoy her last year of life. In the final phases of illness, she did not complain. Rather,

she expressed empathy and compassion - and offered prayer and sacrifice - for persons who suffer through chemotherapy and severe illness.

Words cannot express the amount of pride her family feels, nor the esteem and affection in which she will be forever held.

Visitation will be at St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church in Cape Girardeau Friday, January 6 from 4:30pm - 8:00pm followed by memorial comments and prayers. Evelyn's funeral will follow Saturday at St. Vincent's with an 11:00am Mass offered by Pastor David Hulshof. Her final resting place will be with her husband, Jim, at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis (private service).

Arrangements are being provided by Ford & Sons Funeral Home of Cape Girardeau. The family requests memorials be made to Birthright, St. Vincent de Paul Grade School or the American Cancer Society's Hope Lodge, St. Louis.

Cemetery Details

Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery

2900 Sheriden Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63125

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 6. 4:30 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church
1919 Ritter Dr.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Parish Prayers

JAN 6. 8:00 PM (CT)

St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church
1919 Ritter Dr.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Funeral Mass

JAN 7. 11:00 AM (CT)

St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church
1919 Ritter Dr.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

SM

“ *My sincere sympathy for Jim, Bridget, Mary Beth and the entire Riley family. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. May you find comfort in your memories and the knowledge that she is joining your dad and other loved ones who've gone before her in heaven.* ”

Sandy Moser - January 10, 2017 at 09:20 PM

JJ

“ *A wonderful person, especially with her contagious smile and pleasant personality.* ”

Joe James - January 08, 2017 at 09:30 AM

BH

“ *Please accept my deepest sympathy. I know Evelyn from church and considered her a friend. You are in my thoughts and prayers.* ”

Barbara Hess - January 08, 2017 at 08:14 AM

RH

“ *My deepest sympathy to Jim and his family and all the Riley family.* ”

Robert Hale - January 06, 2017 at 06:48 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Evelyn Marie Riley.* ”



January 06, 2017 at 12:32 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Evelyn Marie Riley.*



January 06, 2017 at 09:40 AM



“ *Thinking of you with sympathy.*
Barb Harrison

Barb Harrison - January 05, 2017 at 05:07 PM



“ *Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church, W.G., MO purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Evelyn Marie Riley.*



Cornerstone Evangelical Free Church, W.G., MO - January 05, 2017 at 02:00 PM



“ *Evelyn was a good neighbor and a dear friend. We will certainly miss her. Helen Ueleke and Norma Ueleke Engelhardt*

Norma Engelhardt - January 05, 2017 at 12:13 PM



“ *Prayers to you, Jim and your family in the loss of your dear mom. I didn't know her that well but know where she was something very special to you. God bless, buddy. Prayers to you all. Clay Crosson*

clay crosson - January 05, 2017 at 10:30 AM

RD

“ Our deepest condolences. Though I only recently had the pleasure of her acquaintance, at Celebrations (I believe she was there in celebration of her birthday), it was clear that she was the brightest of lights. A joyful soul. Rick & ReBeca Drury

ReBeca Drury - January 05, 2017 at 06:27 AM

JT

“ To the Riley family, my deepest sympathy for your loss and I am sure words can never express the depth to which she will be missed. Her love for you and Gods amazing grace will hopefully help ease the pain. She is with HIM and looking down on a life well celebrated! ❤️

Julia Thompson - January 05, 2017 at 06:24 AM

TK

“ To the Riley Family... you are in our thoughts and prayers. How fortunate you are to have had Evelyn with you for such a long and joyous time. She was definitely a "one of a kind" person. The Lord surely welcomed her with open arms.

Rich and Trish Kogge

Trish Kogge - January 04, 2017 at 05:32 PM

KL

My sincere sympathy for Jim, Bridget, Mary Beth and the entire Riley family. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Your mom was a precious "Lady", dear friend to many, and her wonderful sense of humor brought smiles and laughter to so many people. She will be missed! I can only imagine the joy, laughter, and reunions taking place in heaven today as so many she loved, and loved her, we're there to welcome her!

Kitty Wrape Lacy - January 05, 2017 at 06:54 AM

GK

“ Met Evelyn in 1964 at Child's IGA and were instant friends. She was the first one at my door when Jim had his terrible accident in 1971. St. Patrick's parties are unforgettable with the Durkins and Rileys. Such a beautiful person!

genie Kremer - January 04, 2017 at 05:19 PM

MF

“ Mary Beth's bunco friends purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Evelyn Marie Riley.



Mary Beth's bunco friends - January 04, 2017 at 04:57 PM

JH

“ I had the opportunity to work with Evelyn during my internship at Red Letter in the mid 1980's. She was kind and patient. My prayers are with your family that GOD will help thru this time.

Janice Ham - January 04, 2017 at 02:11 PM

LB

“ I know that my daughter Michaele was very lucky to have such a wonderful mother-in-law. Evelyn was such a joy and very talented lady. We had some great times together and we will miss her. May she Rest In Peace. Bert and Lavona Benoit

Lavona Benoit - January 04, 2017 at 01:49 PM

TF

“ *The Durkin family purchased the Magnificent Life Spray for the family of Evelyn Marie Riley.*



The Durkin family - January 04, 2017 at 12:55 PM

SA

“ *I knew Evelyn during her time in which she volunteered at Saint Francis. I always enjoyed my visits to the gift shop to see her and talk about the day. She was a kind and smart woman. I was fortunate to get to know her.*

Sarah - January 04, 2017 at 06:29 AM

KK

“ *Jim, you probably wouldn't remember me, but my husband knows your from CGCC and I know you through Cindy Heuer. I do know how much your Mom meant to you and Greg & I wanted you to know you have our condolences. Prayers for your family.*

Kathy & Greg Kraemer - January 04, 2017 at 06:22 AM

TR

“ *Tom and Karin Roberts purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Evelyn Marie Riley.*



Tom and Karin Roberts - January 04, 2017 at 12:06 AM

SO

“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Evelyn. What a grand lady she was. I will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers during this very difficult time.



Susie Pickett O'Connell - January 03, 2017 at 10:13 PM



“ I had the privilege of knowing Evelyn for 24 years. I started working with her and in no time at all, she became a trusted counselor, confidante, friend and role model. She was friendly and upbeat to everyone, outgoing, optimistic and fun-loving. Her memory and love will live on in the thousands of hearts she touched and lives she contributed to. She lived the life we should all strive for.

Andrew Chronister - January 03, 2017 at 10:03 PM

SA

“ Evelyn has always been the most positive thinking person I have ever met. She always found the good in every situation and person. Her glass was never half full, it was always full and she always had a smile. Evelyn was the epitome of a true Christian, her name was not Grace but should have been since that is the way she lived her life and ended her life. What an inspiration to us all. My New Years resolution is to aspire to be more like Evelyn.

Sandy - January 03, 2017 at 07:00 PM