



ROSE O PHELAN

August 19, 1918 - December 8, 2020

Rose O. Phelan (Matthewman)

102 Years of Age – One of a Kind

8/19/1918 – 12/8/2020

Rose O. Phelan, formerly known as Rose F. Matthewman, passed away in her sleep in Miami, Florida on December 8, 2020 at the age of 102. She was truly one of a kind. Rose was a devout Catholic and she truly loved St. Brendan's Catholic Church in the Westchester area of Miami.

Rose was born on August 19, 1918 in Douglas, Massachusetts as Rosalie Ofcarcik. Her father, Paul Ofcarcik and her mother, Susana Smolen, were both born in Austria (Czechoslovakia) and they settled in Douglas, MA after emigrating to the United States.

As a student at age 17, Rose began working at the Hayward Woolen Company in East Douglas, MA, as a secretary. She completed high school and on August 17, 1940, at the age of 21, she married James Byron Matthewman at St. Denis Catholic Church in East Douglas, MA. That marriage produced 4 children, Susan Matthewman (Melus-Concha), James Matthewman, Robert Matthewman, & William Matthewman. Rose's daughter Susan and son Robert sadly pre-deceased Rose, which caused her great pain and sadness. Her surviving sons, James and William, are both former Miami police officers. James is now retired and William, who became a lawyer, is now an active Judge in Federal Court in the Southern District of Florida.

While serving in the United States Navy during WWII, Rose's husband, James, received training for a time in Miami Beach, Florida. When James returned from the war, he told Rose that they were never again going through another Massachusetts winter, and they promptly moved to Miami, Florida in 1946. In Miami, James began an oil delivery business, and he and Rose built a home in Miami near S.W. 87th Avenue and 32nd Street, which at that time was on the edge of the Everglades. Sadly, on August 9, 1958, at the young age of 43, James was found dead in his oil truck as a result of a tragic

workplace accident.

As a result of her husband's tragic and sudden death, Rose, who had been a homemaker, became a single mother of 4 young children. She lived across the street from St. Brendan's Catholic Church in the Westchester section of Miami, and the priests, staff and parishioners of St. Brendan's were very good to Rose and her children. Rose was a long-time parishioner of St. Brendan's and always had a deep love for St. Brendan's and its members.

In order to support her 4 young children as a single Mom, Rose began working as a secretary at West Miami Jr. High School in Miami, Florida. While working there as a secretary, and raising her children, Rose obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree (Cum Laude) from the University of Miami on 8/29/1964 after attending college on nights and weekends. Rose then became an English teacher at West Miami Jr. High School. Rose eventually obtained her Masters degree in Education as she continued her teaching career. On August 31, 1962, Rose married her second husband, James H. Phelan, a wonderful man who was both a good husband and step-father. James sadly passed away from heart disease in 1982, leaving Rose a widow for a second time.

Rose eventually retired from the Miami Dade Public School system. While in retirement, Rose moved to Colorado Springs, Colorado to live near her daughter, Susan, and the two lived as neighbors for several years. The plan back then was that Susan, who was the spitting image of Rose, would care for Rose as she aged. Unfortunately, Susan became ill and it was Rose who ended up caring for Susan until Susan sadly passed away in Colorado Springs in 2006. After Susan's passing, Rose returned to South Florida. Until she was 101, Rose lived at the Palace Independent Living in Kendall where she had her own apartment in the Independent Living residences. She loved the Palace and its staff and residents, and they loved her. Rose moved to The Palace Assisted Living Memory Care residence in Homestead in early 2020 as she approached 102 years of age and dementia got the better of her mind.

Some would say that Rose had a difficult life, losing two husbands and two children, and being widowed while a homemaker with 4 young children. But Rose was always hard-working, loving and caring, and she never complained or said a bad word about anyone. She had a very strong Catholic faith and she is now with our Lord. As she said when she turned 100: "At my age every day is a gift. I'm content and ready to meet the Lord when the Lord is ready for me".

Rose is survived by her son James Matthewman, of Miami, wife Marlene, and children

(Rose's grand-children) Barbara Ann, James, Jr., and Shawn; son Judge William Matthewman, of Palm Beach County, wife Diane, and children (Rose's grand-children) Kelly, Scott, David, and Mark; Susan's children (Rose's grand-children) Kristen, and John. Rose is also survived by numerous great grand-children. Rose was loved by all. She will be sorely missed, never to be replaced.

Funeral services are private due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Van Orsdel Funeral & Cremation Services - January 11 at 12:37 PM



“ Beautiful.

Barbara Matthewman - April 09 at 12:51 AM



“ A webcast video has been added.



Van Orsdel Funeral & Cremation Services - January 11 at 12:12 PM



“ I love you Gramma Rose

Teresa - January 12 at 10:56 AM



“ I will always always love you and miss you every day of my life. Thanks inspiration to me just like aunt Sue was. Thank you for all your guidance/support and your faith in me. And never giving up on me. You have taught me so many things learned so much from you and I'm so grateful for that. Rest in peace grandma. Your memory of our hearts we will deal with this again please give Adrian a huge hug from me, Kayla, and his mommy
You are forever my girl xoxo

Barbara Matthewman - January 12 at 12:03 PM



“ I can't believe you have been gone soon to be 1 year on December 8, 2021. You would be so very proud of me grandma because you've been watching down on me and I know that you are so aware of all of my positive life changes and loving life again. I knew you are as happy for me as I am.... If not more. I miss you always and I hope you hear me when I speak with you and a lot actually. I feel you near me often... I just wish I could see you just one more time. I will always have you in my heart and in our memories. Boy we kept some serious secret's, didn't we. I miss it all. I love you forever and always grandma. 😊 😊
Love always, Barbara Ann

Barbara Matthewman - October 30 at 05:05 AM



“ Barbara Matthewman sent a virtual gift in memory of ROSE O PHELAN



Barbara Matthewman - May 04 at 08:26 AM



“ Barbara Matthewman lit a candle in memory of ROSE O PHELAN



Barbara Matthewman - May 04 at 08:23 AM



“ We will love you and miss you forever grandma! Peace of all of our hearts has a hole in it without you here with us. But I know you're at home with God which is where are you wanted to be for a long time now. So I know you're looking down on us and that you're still with us in our hearts and souls and memories. Grandma you were my rock! I hope you're dancing in heaven grandma, are you so loved to dance! Xoxo
rest in peace grandma, until we meet again. Gone but never forgotten.



Barbara Matthewman - May 04 at 08:22 AM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Teresa Murphy - May 01 at 07:28 AM



“ We were so sorry to hear of Rose's passing. Though we know she has gone home to God, it is still difficult for the loved ones left behind. Rose and her family and friends are in our thoughts during this difficult time. The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth are praying for all of you, now and always.

Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth - February 24 at 09:40 AM



“ 19 files added to the album LifeTributes



Barbara Matthewman - January 12 at 12:06 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Barbara Matthewman - January 12 at 11:57 AM



“ 30 files added to the album LifeTributes



Van Orsdel Funeral & Cremation Services - January 04 at 03:12 PM



“ Rose was a beautiful and so amazing always with a smile. Loved seeing her at mass.
She always gave her contribution to Saint Vincent de Paul ministry to help those less fortunate. R.I.P Rose.

Coach Mauro - December 21, 2020 at 08:33 AM



“ Thank you, Coach Mauro, for those nice comments. My Mom was always for the underdog, and those less fortunate. She is missed.

Bill - December 26, 2020 at 02:34 PM



“ A beautiful smile, a beautiful person, a beautiful soul.
May Rose rest in peace in the arms of our savior Jesus Christ.

Paul J Kaniewski - December 20, 2020 at 10:13 PM



“ Thank you, Paul, for those nice comments. My Mom was very special, and she is finally at rest.

Bill - December 26, 2020 at 02:33 PM



“ Rose was a member of the Solos here in Colorado Springs. We loved her and missed her when she moved back to Florida.
Rest In Peace, Rose!

Barbara Haywood - December 20, 2020 at 02:31 PM



“ Thank you, Barbara. My Mom really enjoyed her time in Colorado, but she returned to South Florida after my sister Sue passed away. Rose spoke very often about how much she liked the Solos.

Bill - December 26, 2020 at 02:31 PM



“ Rose was a very special friend to me and welcomed me when I moved to Westchester and attended St. Brendan Catholic Church. She was a beautiful woman of faith and a role model to me. May she rest in heavenly peace with our Lord and Blessed Mother. My prayers are lifted up. Love and prayers, Michele Sweeney



Michele Sweeney - December 20, 2020 at 01:02 PM



“ Thank you Michelle. My Mom loved St. Brendan's and all the people there.

Bill - December 26, 2020 at 02:28 PM



“ What a beautiful tribute to your mother! I am very sorry for your loss.



Cathy wade - December 16, 2020 at 08:33 AM



“ Thank you very much, Cathy.

Bill - December 19, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ So sorry to hear of Rose's passing, I will always remember how she would come to give my mom communion and making her day. In fact , Rose would make anyone's day better when she was around. I remember having good times with her , counting money, at our monthly Fiat, and our Daughters of Isabella monthly meetings. Rest in peace.

Love,

Maryann Wallace,

Wendy Welch, and

Stevie Ray Welch-Cox

Maryann Wallace - December 14, 2020 at 08:29 PM



“ Thank you for your nice comments Maryanne, Wendy and Stevie Ray. Our Mom Rose really loved St. Brendan's Catholic Church and all her friends there.

Bill - December 15, 2020 at 01:32 PM



“ Thank you for allowing us to care for her. May she Rest in Peace.
Our love to the whole family.

Thank you,
The Palace Gardens

The Palace Gardens - December 14, 2020 at 06:05 PM



“ Thanks for all the assistance and kindness from the staff at The Palace Independent Living Kendall, and from the staff at The Palace Assisted Living Memory Care in Homestead.

Bill - December 17, 2020 at 07:45 AM



“ We will always love you grandma explanation Mark rest in peace



Barbara Matthewman - December 14, 2020 at 12:33 PM



“ Of course my Siri did not put the symbol!. It's spelled the words. I love U grandma.

barbara matthewman - December 16, 2020 at 09:14 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Jackie Wright - December 13, 2020 at 09:44 PM



“ Rose Phelan at Rosie Morris Apartment , The Palace, with Mozart.

Jackie Wright - December 14, 2020 at 10:58 AM



“ I met Rose when she lived at The Palace. She always ate with my Grandma Rosie. I loved hearing her stories. I am a teacher too so we would talk shop. She always gave me firm hugs and squeezed my arm as she shared her life stories with me over breakfast. I know my grandmother cherished her time with Rose. She will be remembered with love and affection. Heartfelt condolences to the family.
Vivian Michalik (Morris)

Vivian Michalik - December 13, 2020 at 06:04 PM



“ Thank you Vivian. Your Grandma Rosie is a really nice, sweet person, and my Mom really loved her. Pls tell your Rose we all say Hi and wish her and her family the best.

Bill - December 13, 2020 at 08:00 PM



“ Remembering our volunteering days at St Brendan. RIP Rose.



Libe Aranguren - December 13, 2020 at 04:11 PM



“ Thanks for you comment and photos, Libe. As you know, St. Brendan's Catholic Church was very special to my Mother. Please tell all her friends that we hope to have a Mass of remembrance for her next year when things are safe.

Bill - December 13, 2020 at 08:03 PM



“ Tracy Cardentey lit a candle in memory of ROSE O PHELAN



Tracy Cardentey - December 11, 2020 at 06:26 AM



“ 10 files added to the album Memories Album



Bill - December 10, 2020 at 11:00 AM



“ Cherry Bailey lit a candle in memory of ROSE O PHELAN



Cherry Bailey - December 10, 2020 at 07:39 AM



“ Sending our deepest condolences to Krisi and her family. Rose will be remembered and cherished as such a genuine, caring and lovely lady. We were so fortunate to have known her. Malena & Christina



malena brohm - December 09, 2020 at 10:59 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Barbara Matthewman - December 09, 2020 at 08:55 PM



“ Barbara Matthewman lit a candle in memory of ROSE O PHELAN



Barbara Matthewman - December 09, 2020 at 08:54 PM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



John Melus - December 09, 2020 at 08:40 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michelle Melus - December 09, 2020 at 05:51 PM



“ I shared many breakfasts, and dinners with Rose and her friend Rosie (my mom) at the Palace. I enjoyed visiting with her and she spoke to me with a smile and great cheer. Our family will never forget her. With heartfelt sympathy.

Jackie Wright

Jackie Wright - December 13, 2020 at 09:57 PM



“ Thank you Jackie. You Mom Rosie is a wonderful person and my Mom Rose loved her. Please send our best wishes to your Rosie and her family.

Bill - December 19, 2020 at 03:02 PM