
Barbara J. Power

MILTON — Barbara Jane (Clarke) Power, 83, of Milton, formerly of Buzzards Bay and Boynton Beach, Fla., died at home on Aug. 11, 2009.

She was the beloved wife of the late Joseph S. Power.

She was born on May 19, 1926, as the youngest child of James D. and Winifred (Burke) Clarke. Growing up in Southbridge, she married her high school sweetheart, Joe, when he returned from the war. Keeping the nickname "Muff" bestowed by her father throughout her life, Muff and Joe had a wonderful life raising their family in a warm, loving clan, and staying close to their siblings and their children.

Joe's career at New England Telephone kept the family on the move in the 1960s as they left Southbridge with stops in Ashland, Wareham, Buzzards Bay, Puerto Rico, Hudson, and finally back to Buzzards Bay, where they retired in 1980. With their primary home on the Cape and winters at their home in Florida, Muff and Joe had a very happy retirement.

Barbara's primary sense of joy and purpose in life was her family. She insisted that her children stay in close harmony with one another and that their children continue the special bond that had been built. In later years, she felt her legacy was complete as she saw the kinship of her grandchildren with those of her sister Isabel's. Over the 4th of July weekend this year and against her doctor's advice, she insisted on coming to the Cape one more time so that her family could gather and say good-bye to its last member of the greatest generation.

She is survived by her daughter, Maryellen Sullivan and her husband Clifford of Milton and Falmouth; three sons, Kevin Power and his wife Maryanne of Sandwich, Christopher Power of Bolton and his wife Maureen; and Timothy Power of Wolvercote, England, and wife Valeria; grandchildren, KC Power of Eastham, Kelly Smiley of Dorchester, Jesse and Cole Power of Bolton and Matthew Sullivan of Milton; and great-grandchildren Dana, Riley and Terryn, all of Dorchester. She was predeceased by her siblings, George and Jack of Springfield and Isabel Sherlock of Buzzards Bay.

Visiting hours will be from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13, 2009, in the Chapman, Cole & Gleason Funeral Home, 584 W. Falmouth Highway (Route 28A), West Falmouth. A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 14, 2009, at St. Elizabeth Seton Church, 481 Quaker Road, North Falmouth, followed by burial at Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne.

For online guest book and directions, please visit www.ccgfuneralhome.com.