



Rosemary Josephine Criste

September 21, 1934 - August 19, 2022

Rosemary Josephine Criste (Mertle), aka Granny Rosemary, was born on September 21, 1934, in St. Louis, Missouri to Joseph Mertle and Frances Reed. She passed away peacefully in her sleep on August 19, 2022.

Rosemary attended high school in St. Louis and then worked as a secretary for Mr. McDonnell at McDonnell Douglas along with her sisters, Helen and Pat. She met her husband Harold aka Chris when he came to visit her brother Jim who he had served with in the military. They were engaged 3 months later and then married on January 14, 1956. Rosemary and Chris lived in Florissant, Missouri where they raised their children, Michael, Susan, Diane, Maureen, and Shelly. Rosemary had a career as a Credit Analyst at Sears for almost 20 years and was very proud of her work there.

Rosemary's hobbies, interests, and talents covered a broad range of topics. She had a love of knowledge and learning which she passed on to her children. Rosemary was always teaching and expanding her children's vocabulary as evidenced by the popularity of Scrabble, Words with Friends, and reading with her children still today. When doing homework if a word's meaning or spelling was unknown, she'd say, "Go look it up in the dictionary," a hefty full sized one kept at easy access on the bookshelf. We are probably the only family that regularly read the dictionary. She had a love of travel and visited her children wherever they were from Texas to Missouri to Illinois and even to Japan. She went on many cruises together with her husband, siblings

and in-laws, and children. She was able to experience and explore many parts of the world throughout her life, but her favorite times were those spent traveling with her family whether it be camping with the Morlock's in Florida, visiting with everyone at family reunions, or exploring new countries with her children. Rosemary was adept at investing and was the first to encourage her children to begin saving for their future. Her creative side could be seen throughout her home and garden. She had an art room in the basement that was full of ingredients to create, including dried flowers, ribbons, paints, and stencils. She could often be heard remarking when someone liked an item out shopping, "We can make that!" Her garden was full of beautiful trees, plants, and statues and became an arena for many years of slug hunts with the grandchildren, all outfitted with headlamps, tweezers, and jars in a quest to save the Hosta leaves from the giant predators. Her cat, Toby, was a constant companion in later years. His giant presence a comfort to her after the loss of Chris. She even taught him how to ring a bell three times in order to receive a treat. Often the bell could be heard ringing multiple cadences as Toby was an avid treat lover. However, she was very strict about the number of times required in order to receive that treat, no cheating or slacking was allowed.

She leaves to cherish her memory, her children Michael and Sherry Criste, Susan and Ted Bond, Diane and James Signaigo, Maureen and Tommy Werner, Shelly and Fred Brandon; her grandchildren, Joe, Katie and her husband Zach, Seth and his wife Lindsey, Lauren, Sophie, Savannah and her husband Nathan, Sierra and her partner Kyle, Roman, Noah, Vito, Casey and his wife Kaitlyn, Jordan and his wife Alli, Haley and her husband Frank, Ella and Willow; her great grandchildren Taylor, Addilyn, Charlotte, Theo, and Rosemary along with cousins, nieces, nephews and a host of relatives and friends. Rosemary will be forever missed.

Rosemary, a sesquipedalian, was a lover of reading, family, travel, and debate. Sesquipedalian...what is that? Well, as she would say... "Go look it

up in the dictionary.”

Cemetery Details

National Cemetery - Jefferson Barracks

2900 Sheridan Rd
St. Louis, MO 63125

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **24**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Archway Memorial Chapel
111 Taylor Road
Hazelwood, MO 63042
(314) 895-3900
info@archwaychapel.com

Funeral Mass

AUG **25**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
751 N. Jefferson St.
Florissant, MO 63031

Tribute Wall



“ -TTX Company purchased the *Serene Reflections Bouquet* for the family of Rosemary Josephine Criste.



-TTX Company - August 24, 2022 at 10:36 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Rosemary Josephine Criste.



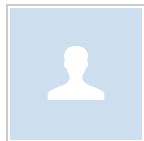
August 23, 2022 at 10:06 PM



“ Sarah Brandon purchased the *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* for the family of Rosemary Josephine Criste.



Sarah Brandon - August 23, 2022 at 01:39 PM



“ *Arrive in Style* was purchased for the family of Rosemary Josephine Criste.



August 23, 2022 at 01:25 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rosemary Josephine Criste.



August 22, 2022 at 05:06 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Rosemary Josephine Criste.



August 22, 2022 at 04:10 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Rosemary Josephine Criste.



August 22, 2022 at 02:12 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosemary Josephine Criste.



August 22, 2022 at 10:33 AM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Rosemary Josephine Criste.*



August 22, 2022 at 06:22 AM



“ *Emily And Peter Worsowicz lit a candle in memory of Rosemary Josephine Criste*



Emily and Peter Worsowicz - August 21, 2022 at 07:41 PM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Rosemary Josephine Criste.*



August 21, 2022 at 07:37 PM



“ *Dave And LII Morlock lit a candle in memory of Rosemary Josephine Criste*



Dave and LII Morlock - August 21, 2022 at 06:29 PM

KM

“ *Ken And Sharon McGhee sent a virtual gift in memory of Rosemary Josephine Criste*



Ken and Sharon McGhee - August 21, 2022 at 03:47 PM

DB

“ *I have so many great memories from all our family vacations together*



Debbie Broughton - August 21, 2022 at 01:30 PM