



## Clare Murphy

March 4, 1928 - March 5, 2025

Clare Marie Murphy (nee Meehan) passed peacefully in her home on March 5, 2025, the day after her 97th birthday.

Clare was born in West Brighton, Staten Island, the daughter of Philip and Alice Meehan and sister of Daniel Meehan. She attended Sacred Heart Grammar School, Curtis High School and Wagner College where she earned her R.N. in Nursing. She worked first as an operating room nurse at Staten Island Hospital, later as a staff nurse at Beth Israel Hospital in Manhattan, and finally at a methadone clinic on Staten Island.

While at Staten Island Hospital she met James (Jay) Murphy, Jr., a patient receiving treatment for war injuries. They fell in love and were married on November 10, 1950. They made their home together on Emerson Hill, raised three devoted sons, and in later years vacationed with friends and family on Longboat Key, Florida until Jay's passing in 2014.

They were faithful and longtime parishioners of St. Teresa's RC Church of Castleton Corners, Staten Island. Clare received last rites from Msgr. William Belford, the Pastor of St. Teresa's. In 2000, together with her brother Dan, Clare received the blessing of Pope John Paul II at the Vatican in Rome.

She leaves behind her three sons James (Jay) III of Staten Island, NY, Philip

of Rockville, MD, and Mark of Wilmington, DE; daughters-in-law Tania, Nancy and Katie; grandchildren Carolyn, Clare, Kevin, Mark Jr., Seamus and Meaghen; great grandchildren Anne, Clare, Josie, Maggie, Jack, Juliet and Keegan; and 7 nieces and nephews and their families.

Clare was kind, loving, and beloved, a beautiful human being, a 'people person', the first person to turn to with good news or for sage advice. Her life was led in selfless service to others, and she was the best friend or relative anyone could hope to have. Even in her latest years, she made new friends quickly while maintaining her lifelong bonds. A granddaughter, great granddaughter and the daughter of a friend are all named Clare in her honor.

Clare loved long walks, swimming, the ballet, good restaurants (always beautifully dressed, bejeweled and coiffed), traveling, the beach, reading, helping people and, especially, talking for rapt hours with her 'darlings'.

She taught her grandchildren through word and example to be caring, adventurous, strong, generous and forever young, riding the boardwalk carousel and dipping into the waves into her late 80's. She died as she lived, bathed in the warmth of love, surrounded by three generations of family, teaching them by example the final lesson of life.

Her spirit will live on in all who knew her. She will be interred with a private family memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, joining her beloved husband, Jay. Donations in her memory may be sent to St. Teresa's RC Church, 1634 Victory Blvd, Staten Island, NY 10314.

# Cemetery Details

## **Rosehill Crematory**

792 E Edgar Rd  
Linden, NJ 07036

# Tribute Wall

WI

“ Dear Phil and Mark: Paul, Diane (my wife) and I were so sad to learn about Clare’s passing , and absolutely wrecked to learn about Jay’s before Christmas

*The Murphys were always so good to all of the Ryan’s, and you were always part of our extended family. Clare and our mother Kay were best friends (and occasional verbal sparing partners :) for decades, and one of my earliest memories of all of us together was the tour of the Independence in the 1960s. Your parents were honestly my favorite “aunt” and “uncle” growing up, and I treasured every time we got together, which occurred mostly in Staten Island and Rockville Centre, but get togethers occurred in Princeton , Virginia, and, Phil, Brussels - we still remember going to dinner with you and Mark, helping to babysit your oldest son in Staten Island when Diane and I were first married.*

*Your parents also graciously let me live with them the summer of 1986 when I was a summer associate at a downtown NYC law firm, and one of my most cherished memories of Clare was sitting in your kitchen talking with her for hours about my life, my goals, and having her set me straight on both.*

*I loved your father, but she was, in many respects, my second mother. I’m so sad that as the years went on and I became preoccupied, that I missed talking with her more regularly, but I know how much she adored all of you.*

*I’m really comforted that I think all of our parents are together, that Kay and Clare are talking nonstop for hours without a long distance charge :), and that your mother is driving a convertible past the pearly gates. I was so heartened to hear your parents will be together in Arlington after all your father did for this country, and we all plan on paying our respects.*

*I've glossed over Jay's passing, but know he's in our prayers. Please feel free to contact us ( my email is weryan.3@comcast.net and my cell is +1 (917) 572-9328. We would all love to reconnect.*

*Much love, Paul, Bill(y) and Diane Ryan*

---

**William E. Ryan III** - January 27 at 08:01 PM

LF

“ *My sincere condolences to Claire's family. What a lovely and beautiful woman. I always enjoyed talking to Claire outside of church. Apologies for not stopping to pay my respects, but I just saw about Claire's passing this morning. Rest in peace beautiful Claire reunited with your beloved Jay.* 🙏

---

**Linda Fawcett** - March 13, 2025 at 12:19 PM

DP

“ *For more than 18 years, Clare and I had a nice friendship as neighbors; we lived directly across the street from one another. My fondest memory is when she had a Mass said for my mother after she passed away in 2015. God bless Clare and the entire Murphy family. -- Dom Del Prete*

---

**Dom Del Prete** - March 10, 2025 at 03:54 AM

JK

“ *Mrs. Murphy was always kind and beautiful from the inside and outside. I have fond memories of her on Staten Island. Rest in Peace!*

---

**Jeffrey Keating** - March 07, 2025 at 05:41 PM