



## Mrs. Jeannette Yvonne Rotondo

June 7, 1938 - July 14, 2024

Jeannette Rotondo, 86 of Lee Massachusetts, passed away at home on Sunday, July 14, 2024, surrounded by her family. Jeannette was born in Pittsfield, Massachusetts on June 7, 1938, to Roger Besaw and Yvonne Gendron Besaw (both deceased) and is most remembered for her love of horses. Jeannette was raised on a family farm in Vermont, was a competitive trail rider and had a passion for music from all the time she spent with her father, who was an old-time fiddle player, often accompanying him on her guitar.

Throughout her life, Jeannette gave her time to various causes including the Girl Scouts, the Red Cross, 4-H, Colonial Carriage and Driving Society of Berkshire County, Young Farmers and Ranchers, Farm Bureau and various therapeutic riding programs serving those with disabilities. She was often recognized for these efforts being named 4-H Volunteer of the Year, receiving the Colonial Carriage and Driving Special Events Award as well as the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation John Ogonowski Member of Year Award. Jeannette and her late husband, Ralph Rotondo, also had a farm in Lee, Massachusetts where they raised numerous animals including Arabian and Belgian horses and were frequently recognized from their participation in local parades such as the Founder's Day and Tub Parades where they would hook up their team of draft horses to pull historic and antique apparatus from throughout the Berkshires.

Jeannette's many accomplishments included helping to organize the Colonial

Carriage and Driving Society in Berkshire County and participating on the founding committee that organized the first Tub Parade. She also held numerous roles with the Farm Bureau including serving as the membership committee secretary for the Equine Committee. Throughout her life, she was instrumental in helping others learn to ride and often passed on her passion for animals in the process.

Jeannette is survived by her five daughters (Kathryn LaGrant (Donald Haywood) of Otis Massachusetts, Marie Rotondo (Don Cingrani) of Redding California, Linda (Glenn) Pascoe of Australia, Elaine Lovato of Pittsfield Massachusetts and Donna Rotondo of Lee, Massachusetts) 11 grandchildren (Melissa, Joshua and Jonathan LaGrant, Matthew and Eric Tyer, Shannon, Luke and Zachariah Plaquet, Justin Lovato, Lindsey Lovato Sekowski and Ralph "Joe" Rotondo) and 18 great grandchildren (Nicholas, Sophia and Annie LaGrant, Dylan, Brayden, Bryce, Molly, Nia and Peter Tyer, August, Logan, Alora, Xavier and Imogen Plaquet, Tessa and Cameron Lovato, and Ashton and Arden Sekowski), her brother, Alfred Besaw of New Hampshire, numerous nieces, nephews and countless friends Jeannette touched throughout her life.

Besides her parents, Jeannette is predeceased by her great-grandchildren Kyleen Burrell and Ella Rose LaGrant, her sister Muriel Wise-Wassel and her son-in-law Frederick LaGrant.

Jeannette was a devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother and she will be missed every day. Jeannette's memory will live on in the hearts of all those who loved and knew her.

A celebration of life for Jeannette will be held by her family later this fall. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the adaptive/therapeutic program at Blue Rider Stables ([bluerider.org](http://bluerider.org)) or the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation ([mfbf.site-ym.com](http://mfbf.site-ym.com))

# Cemetery Details

## St. Mary's Cemetery

Spring Street  
Lee, MA 01238

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

OCT 5. 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Greenock Country Club  
220 West Park Street  
Lee, MA 01238

# Tribute Wall

DR

“ *My mom had some wonderful friends and Nancy was one of her best. Along with Joanne and John* ❤️❤️



Donna Rotondo - August 04, 2024 at 11:06 AM

PG

“ *To The Rotondo Family,  
Please accept our deepest prayers and sympathy in your loss. We are sure you have many wonderful memories that you will hold deep in your hearts. Call on them when you need a smile, a laugh or a tear. Rest In Peace.*

Patrick & Marie Gormalley - August 03, 2024 at 02:22 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Elaine Lovato - July 30, 2024 at 12:37 PM

PH

“ *My sincere condolences to Jeannette's family. So thankful for the family holiday dinners I was honored to share with my daughter, son-in-law and grandson at Gram's house. She will be remembered as a very warm and loving person.*

Patricia Hamelin-Buchauer - July 29, 2024 at 07:44 PM

MA

“ *Jeannette had a clear love of family and was the glue that binds. She'll be missed.*



Mark - July 29, 2024 at 07:21 PM

NB

“ *Sending our sincere Condolences to All who new and loved her. Sincerely, Bob and Natalie Burrell.*



Natalie M Burrell - July 29, 2024 at 07:01 PM

MB

“ *Walking into the living room, I was amazed to see black patent leather tack, up on wooden sawhorses. Ralph had just returned from his AMISH trip. Love seeping everywhere*

Monica Bond - July 29, 2024 at 01:04 PM