



## Mrs. Joan M. O'Brien

October 6, 1938 - August 24, 2023

Joan M. O'Brien, 84, of Lenox died peacefully at her home in Lenox surrounded by her loving family on Thursday, August 24th.

She was born on October 6, 1938 in Pittsfield, MA to the late Harold and Cecelia Moriarty Ethier. She was a 1956 graduate of Pittsfield High School. After high school, Joan worked at Friendly's Restaurant in Lee for many years until her retirement at which time she joined the culinary team of Lenox Public Schools. Joan also volunteered her time reading to students in Lenox and often reminisced about the students she met, watching them grow up over the years.

Joan was a communicant of St. Ann's Church in Lenox.

Over the years, she enjoyed time spent with her family vacationing in Wells Beach, Maine, hosting nearly 40 annual clambakes that we all still laugh about today, and creating memories with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She, and the love of her life Obie, could often be found on the dance floor of many country music events. They formed a strong bond with the band Whiskey City who has been so gracious to them over the years.

Mrs. O'Brien married Richard E. O'Brien on November 18, 1977 in Becket, MA. He predeceased her on April 19, 2016.

Joan is survived by her children; Ellen Eagan (Mike) of Pittsfield, Daniel Belair (Kelly) of Egremont, and Richard Belair (Laura) of Nantucket, grandchildren; Monique, Kristin (Tony), Michael, Nicole (Jay), and Lindsay (Mikhail), great-grandchildren; Connor, Griffin, Jaxson, Jace, and Cole.

There will be a private graveside service to be held on Friday, September 1st with a Celebration of Life to follow from 12:00 - 2:00 at Mazzeo's Restaurant, Pittsfield where friends and family are invited to join the family to celebrate Joan's life. Memorial donations in Joan's memory may be made to either Lenox Ambulance or Alzheimer's Association both in care of the Roche Funeral Home, 120 Main Street, Lenox, MA 01240.

Joan's family would like to extend a special thanks to mom's caregivers, especially Cynthia for her love and compassionate care over the past two years.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Ann's Cemetery

1 Ore Bed Road  
Lenox, MA 01240

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

SEP 1. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Mazzeo's Restaurant  
South Street  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

# Tribute Wall

MV

“ *What a wonderful legacy Joan leaves. She left a lasting imprint on so many hearts and lives. Her smile and laugh was contagious. Every year I do the Alzheimer's Walk for the loved one of a friend or family member. This year on October 7th I will do the walk in honor of Joan. The list gets longer and longer for those impacted by this disease. My prayers and hugs to Ellen, Mike and family. Love Melody*

---

**Melody VanOteghem** - August 30, 2023 at 07:09 AM



“ *Your Light Shines was purchased for the family of Mrs. Joan M. O'Brien.*



---

August 29, 2023 at 12:48 PM

NL

“ *So sorry to hear of the passing of Joan. Lovely lady who with her family was our neighbor in Lenox. Stayed friends and kids grew up and seeing Joan out was always fun! Joan loved her family and it showed. Our condolences,*

---

**Nancy Armstrong Loring** - August 28, 2023 at 03:32 PM

BH

“ I am lost for words Joan was & will always be a special lady & forever friend I send the deepest condolences with hugs & prayers to Joans children. Dan, Ellen & Richie. She is with the love of her life (other than her children & Families) Obie. We go way back in time . Forever in my heart.



Bruce & Joan Hunter - August 28, 2023 at 10:08 AM



“ Dearest Ellen, Danny, Rich, and families ~ Our family extends our deepest condolences to each of you. Joan loved you all deeply as you loved her. Be kind and gentle with yourself. Take your time and grieve her passing while cherishing her memory. Please know that I'm thinking of you. These are trying times, and I'm here for you if you ever need me, no matter the hour (always just a phone call away>). Rest in eternal peace, Joan. May God provide comfort and strength to those she left behind.  
Love and God bless,  
Ralph and Paula Coley



Paula Coley - August 26, 2023 at 11:28 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Mrs. Joan M. O'Brien.



August 26, 2023 at 10:53 AM

DE

“ I was so fond of Joan and Obie. I met them at a WC event and enjoyed getting to know them before Ken was injured in 2007. I'm so sorry and would attend but I'm having surgery next week and will be on the mend. Enjoy the good memories.

---

**Diana Ethier** - August 25, 2023 at 06:56 PM