



Rosemary C. Edwards

November 12, 1938 - May 22, 2012

ALBANY – Rosemary Cummins Edwards, 73, entered Eternal Life on Tuesday, May 22, 2012 peacefully at home. She felt truly blessed to be able to celebrate her 50th anniversary with beloved husband Michael; and to enjoy the last three weeks of her life with her mind still sharp, her senses all working, playing the piano, and visited by streams of friends and family to reminisce and wish her a fond farewell. The example of her gratitude to life, her grace and serenity in the face of death showed the firmness of her Christian faith and is her final gift to all who beheld it. Her generosity, warmth and love were unabated until the end.

Rosemary Cummins Edwards was born November 12, 1938 in Albany, the second child of (the late) Joseph and Grace (Ida Holmes) Cummins. Her father's family was Irish, from New Jersey. Her mother's family was Norwegian, by way of Oregon. Throughout her life, Rosie was especially proud of her Norwegian heritage and maintained warm relations with her cousins in Norway.

Raised in Albany with her older brother Robert, she attended the old School 16 from Kindergarten through eighth grade, and also studied dance and piano. After winning the high school entrance exam scholarship, Rosemary attended the Academy of the Holy Names (Class of 1956), thus beginning her lifelong association with AHN. She graduated from The College of New

Rochelle with a B.A. in English literature in 1960 and embarked on her career as an elementary school teacher. In 1962 she obtained a Master's degree in Education from the College of St. Rose.

She met her husband, Michael Edwards, in 1960 at the wedding of mutual friends, Dick and Clare Decker, and the two were married April 28, 1962 in the Grotto of St. Vincent's church in Albany.

Rosemary was an accomplished piano player who used her talent to bring joy to many. An unparalleled accompanist, Rosemary played countless shows for the Bethlehem Central School District, for the Village Stage theatre group, for her first and second grade students, and for both the Middle and Upper Schools at the Academy of the Holy Names. A fitting finale, she was playing in a musical right to the very end, the evening before she learned of her terminal condition.

Rosemary's proudest and happiest vocation was teaching first grade at the Academy of the Holy Names. Her love for the school and her belief in the education of girls and young women energized those around her and touched the lives of hundreds of students. She always said that she wanted to be a part of the school until the very end of her life, and she was blessed to have that wish fulfilled.

Throughout her life Rosemary Cummins Edwards has been to all a model of kindness, good manners, generosity, grace and dignity, of sweetness with strength, of humility and gratitude, of Christian faith and Christian life. She was an exemplary product of Catholic education and devoted much of her life to carrying on this tradition of high standards and faith in her teaching career of 30 years at the Academy of the Holy Names. Despite sorrows and difficulties in her life, she has been steadfast in her faith in the Church and in the love, mercy and justice of God and Jesus Christ. She lived by the motto

on her refrigerator: "The vocation of a Christian is to find joy in bringing joy to others."

Rosemary is survived by her beloved husband and theatrical partner, Michael; her children, Mark A. (Nora) of Albany, Christopher J. (Christine) of Delmar, and Mary A. (Michael) Convertino of Slingerlands; her grandchildren: Regan, Griffin, Natalie, Cole, Will and Stella; her brother Robert J. Cummins (Sally) of New York City, and niece Joan Cummins Sternberger (Paul) and grand-niece Grace of New York City.

She is pre-deceased by her beloved son, Patrick Michael, who died from Cystic Fibrosis in 1979.

The Edwards family would like to thank Dr. Rufus Collea, the St. Peter's Hospice, and the Belvedere nurses (Tashana and Abigale); and also all the many dear Edwards and Cummins family and friends who filled Rosemary's final weeks with warmth and joy.

Funeral services Wednesday, May 30, 2012 at 11:00 am at the Parish of Mater Christi, Albany where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated.

Relatives and friends are invited and may call Tuesday, May 29, 2012 3:00 to 7:00 pm in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany.

Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family earnestly requests that those wishing to honor Rosemary should make a donation to: The Rosemary Cummins Edwards AHN Trust Fund at the Academy of the Holy Names, 1073 New Scotland Ave., Albany, New York 12209 Attention: RCE Trust Fund. This trust fund will

provide important financial assistance for young AHN students to receive the type of education that Rosemary worked for her entire adult life.

To leave the family a special message on their guest book, obtain a prayer card or directions, please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Previous Events

Service

MAY 30. 11:00 AM (ET)

Parish of Mater Christi
40 Hopewell Street (Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle Way)
Albany, NY 12208

Tribute Wall



“ *Rosemary C. Edwards*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *I've been exploring for a little bit for any high-quality articles or blog posts on this sort of space . Exploring in Yahoo I eventually stumbled upon this website. Reading this information So I am satisfied to convey that I've an incredibly excellent uncanny feeling I discovered just what I needed. I such a lot without a doubt will make sure to don't overlook this website and provides it a look on a constant basis.[WORDPRESS HASHCASH] The poster sent us '654198464 which is not a hashcash value.##imported-begin##Widi##imported-end##*

June 25, 2012 at 03:36 PM



“ Rosemary's inner beauty truly shined through in all aspects of her life. My first time meeting Rosemary was when we were 11 years old and we were in the Regional Spelling Bee. Even then she had a way of drawing people to her.

As I reflect, perhaps we were in the same musical circles of piano as youth.

Many years later we met again in Delmar and some of our children (Gordon maiden names) were friends. Every word you wrote about her was so appropriate.

My heart goes out to you for the loss of your wife and mother, a woman too exceptional to describe even in a multitude of complimentary words.

Marcia Schaefer##imported-begin##Marcia Schaefer##imported-end##

June 10, 2012 at 09:56 PM



“ We remember Rosemary with great affection. She was extremely talentedCB2A and brought joy to every group and activity she participated in. We send our sympathy to her family.

David and Norma Irvine##imported-begin##David and Norma Irvine##imported-end##

June 02, 2012 at 04:36 PM



“ *My condolences to the Edwards/Cummins family. My years spent at AHN would not have been the same without the wonderful theater program provided by Mrs and Mr Edwards. She was a true Holy Names treasure and will be missed by the girls that have graduated and all those who will not get to experience the magic she brought to the stage. My prayers are with you all.*

Sincerely

Lauren Scialdo##imported-begin##Lauren Scialdo##imported-end##

June 01, 2012 at 04:07 PM



“ *Mr. Edwards & family,*

I am so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Edwards was a beautiful woman inside and out. I know that I am just one of countless woman who are forever grateful for both Mr. & Mrs. Edwards' dedication to our educations at Holy Names. I was not lucky enough to have Mrs. Edwards for first grade but I remember her gift of music to so many of our high school shows. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

~Leah VanDeloo, Class of 1997##imported-begin##Leah VanDeloo##imported-end##

May 30, 2012 at 11:38 AM



“ We are so sorry for your loss. I met Rosemary Edwards when I was looking for a new school for our daughter, Megan. We visited Rosemary's classroom and I can still remember the warm feeling she gave me. She had a small table with book's about famous women on it and I could immediately tell that she was going to be an affirming and loving teacher. I left that classroom knowing this is where we wanted Megan to go. Her first grade experience was so special. I have videos of the classroom plays that were such a special part of Megan's first grade experience. The children she taught were very blessed.##imported-begin##Diane & Jim Dollery##imported-end##

May 29, 2012 at 07:10 PM



“ Our deepest sympathies to the entire Edwards family. It was truly our blessing to have been touched by Rosemary as an educator and musically as well.##imported-begin##Timothy, Peggy, and Katie Buddenhagen##imported-end##

May 29, 2012 at 03:45 PM



“ We are deeply saddened by the loss of Rosie. We will never forget her smile, her laugh, and her constant care for everyone around. Mike, Mark, Chris, Mary and families our thoughts and prayers are with you.##imported-begin##Tim, Cheryl, Kevin and Trevor Ivatts##imported-end##

May 28, 2012 at 10:02 PM

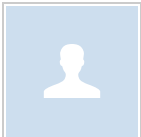


“ *“Those who do for themselves take their accomplishments with them when they die. Those who do for others leave a legacy” (author unknown). Rosemary is certainly one who exemplifies the latter. Not only was she well accomplished, her knowledge and talents were for the benefit of others-her family, friends, students and community.*

We were the beneficiary of only a percentage of her largess-the summer months at Hog Island. Not only was she the anchor of her own family, but ours and others as well. The Carano kids spent many hours at the Edwards' cottage as Rosemary's extended family. We thank her yet.

If what she did during her lifetime were not enough, during her battle for life she displayed tenacity, courage and dignity. We feel fortunate for having been touched by a superb person.##imported-begin##The CARANO FAMILY##imported-end##

May 28, 2012 at 08:59 PM



“ *The Davis family extends our deepest sympathies to your family. Rosie was a special person who will be truly missed. She had that great smile and kind words for everyone. She brought sunshine into our lives.##imported-begin##Pam, Guy, Jonathan and Scott Davis##imported-end##*

May 28, 2012 at 11:37 AM



“ Dear Mr. Edwards and family,
Mrs. Edwards was one of my favorite teachers of all time. When I was little I was scared to be taught by new teachers, but she was just so nice and welcoming, that I felt like I fit right in. She helped me learn how to read, and encouraged me to do my best in everything. I'm sad that she isn't with us on Earth anymore, but I hope that she is doing better now, where she is. She truly made a big impact on my life.##imported-begin##Zoe Diaz-Parker##imported-end##

May 26, 2012 at 02:30 PM



“ Dear Mr. Edwards & Family,
We just want to let you know that our thoughts and prayers are with you. We feel blessed to have met Mrs. Edwards during her earthly life; she was a wonderful person and educator , and a truly gifted musician. We wish you peace and comfort during this difficult time.
Sincerely,
The Diaz-Parkers##imported-begin##Carl, Sandee, & Zoe Diaz-Parker##imported-end##

May 26, 2012 at 02:21 PM



“ Please accept our heartfelt sympathies, on the loss of our Hog Island Sister.
We wish your family peace, and happiness that she is with her Heavenly Father.
We grew to enjoy her friendship, and her beautiful smile.
We shall see her again someday.
Love from the Cochrane Family.##imported-begin##Robert (son), and Lillian Cochrane##imported-end##

May 25, 2012 at 08:12 PM



“ I'm truly sorry to hear of your loss. Rosemary was a shining example to all of us who knew her, she was not only a classmate but a true friend. She will always be remembered. Keeping your family in my prayers.##imported-begin##Kay Fortin##imported-end##

May 25, 2012 at 04:35 PM



“ Rosie, we will miss your smile, your voice, the sparkle in your eyes and your sweet songs & laughter. Thoughts & prayers to all of you. xxoo##imported-begin##Margi##imported-end##

May 24, 2012 at 07:01 PM



“ I graduated from AHN in 1996. My deepest sympathies.##imported-begin##Valerie M. Wright##imported-end##

May 24, 2012 at 02:32 PM



“ To Mike, Mark, Chris, Mary, and your families - please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. She was an amazing woman with an incredible family... thinking of each of you.##imported-begin##Stephanie Gehrke Marra##imported-end##

May 24, 2012 at 01:31 PM



“ Will miss seeing her contagious smile on the Island!##imported-begin##Nancy McCaughey##imported-end##

May 24, 2012 at 12:02 PM



“ *What a beautiful life we have all had the privilege to have been a part of. What a beautiful family she had the privilege to be surrounded by. My deepest sympathy to you all.*
Maureen Topping”

May 24, 2012 at 11:33 AM



“ *Dear Edwards Family,*

I have so many great memories of growing up on Huron Road with your family. I will never forget that smile and how your mom made those around her smile. My thoughts are with you all.”
Donna Vogel”

May 24, 2012 at 10:33 AM



“ *On behalf of all of us, I am sending our sincere condolences. Our families shared many memories over the years, all of which Rosemary was in the center bringing joy to all of us. May those memories sustain you through this difficult time.*

The Clarks - Dick, Ann, Ford & Val.”
Valerie Clark”

May 24, 2012 at 09:35 AM



“ *She will be remembered as the wonderful, bright person she always was. So Sorry.*”
Dave & Pat D'Aiello and family”

May 24, 2012 at 09:19 AM



“ *Sending love and warm thoughts of remembrance for an extraordinary woman##imported-begin##Annie and Don Cosgrove##imported-end##*

May 24, 2012 at 06:41 AM