

BEATRICE CARUSO



On November 30, 2024, peacefully, surrounded by her family, Beatrice Rafferty Caruso "Bea" passed away at the age of 87. A true example of selflessness, compassion, and caring in everything she did, she had an immeasurable impact on family, friends, and the South Oakland community where she served as a community health nurse for more than 40 years. Bea was born in the small town of Grampian, PA,

to John Young Jr. and Erie Duck Rafferty. She grew up on the family farm with her siblings, the late Richard M. Rafferty, and Ella Jane Kantar. In 1956, Bea and her cousin, the late Lorys Fuge Oddi, moved to Pittsburgh to attend nursing school at Mercy Hospital. It was during this time that she met the love of her life on a blind date. Bea married her beloved husband, Patrick J. Caruso, in 1960. They were together for 55 years, until his passing in 2015. Bea was a loving wife, and devoted mother to her daughters Jennifer (William Ridinger), Tonia, and Christine. She was beautiful, intelligent, kind, and calm no matter what came her way. At work, Bea was an understated but powerful force in helping others as health director of Community Human Services. In addition to providing general health care for the community, she was instrumental in developing the health care system for the homeless at Wood Street Commons. She helped to start the Homemaker Program, which trains home care professionals to care for the elderly and disabled, and worked to begin a Domiciliary Care program to provide supervised housing to the elderly and mentally challenged. Her legacy includes the love and upliftment she provided to everyone she met. Bea was a woman of deep faith and heavily involved in St. Regis Church as a volunteer, member of parish council, and the first eucharist minister to serve the parish. In her retirement years, Bea enjoyed puzzling, milkshakes, and spending time with her daughters, large extended family, and friends. Along with her sister and children; Bea is survived by her sisters-in-law, Anna Casciato, Yolanda and Nickie Caruso; brother-in-law, Morton Kantar; and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins, and dear friends. Family and friends are welcomed at the **JOHN N. ELACHKO FUNERAL HOME**, 3447 Dawson St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213, on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, from 6 pm until 8 pm, and Wednesday, December 4, 2024, 2 pm-4 pm and 6-8 pm. Mass of Christian Burial on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 10 am at the St. Paul Cathedral Parish-St. Rosalia Worship Site, entombment immediately following at Calvary Catholic Cemetery. Please visit Beatrice's memorial page at

ELACHKO.com

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