



Joan Ellen Rivers

January 13, 2015

Mrs. Joan Ellen (Lubowicz) Rivers, 67, of 435 Reservoir Rd., North Adams, died on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at Brigham & Women's Hospital in Boston. She was born in Adams on December 26, 1947, daughter of the late Edwin and Helen (Leja) Lubowicz. She attended schools in Adams and graduated from the former Adams High School with the class of 1965. She then went on to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Science and Elementary Education from the former North Adams State College in 1969.

Mrs. Rivers worked for many years as a teacher for the North Adams Public Schools until her retirement. She had also worked for the Grinell Law Firm in Williamstown.

She was a communicant of St. Elizabeth of Hungary Church, North Adams. She was a member of the Friends of the North Adams Library, the North Adams Teachers Association, the Massachusetts Teachers Association and the National Teachers Association. Joan loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She was an outdoor enthusiast, enjoying skiing, cycling and walking with her friends. She enjoyed her house in Vermont, hiking the White Mountains of New Hampshire and traveling to the ocean and islands.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Gary F. Rivers, whom she married on November 22, 1969;

Two sons – John Rivers and his wife Nancy of Savannah, GA and Christopher Rivers and his wife Jennifer of Clifton Park, NY;

1 Brother – Ronald Lubowicz and his wife Barbara of Lubbock, TX;
6 Grandchildren – Brice, Andrew, Lauren, Hayley, Nicholas and Derek as well
as two nieces, Katy and Jenny.

The funeral will be on Saturday, January 17, at 9:00AM from the PACIOREK
FUNERAL HOME, 13 Hoosac St., Adams, followed by a Liturgy of Christian
Burial at 10:00AM in St. Stanislaus Kostka Church, Adams, celebrated by
Rev. Steven Montesanti, Pastor.

Burial will follow in Southview Cemetery, North Adams.

Calling hours are Friday from 4:00PM to 7:00PM at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Friends of the North Adams Library,
74 Church St., North Adams, MA 01247 or Pop Cares, P.O. Box 482,
Williamstown, MA 01267

Tribute Wall

BD

“ Gary,Ron,John,Chris and families, condolences from Florida. We have very many happy memories of times spent at Aunt Helen's with all of you. Love and prayers from all. Betty Delisle and Family y

Betty Delisle - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

JC

“ I am deeply saddened.

Joe Cain - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

PR

“ Condolences from all of us here at The Spoke. A while ago, a former employee was visiting us at the shop, and he was asking after Gary and Joanie. His memory of them was very strong, he remembered them as a shining example of what married life could be. He held them up as the most memorable, most engaged, most in-love couple he knew. And we agree.Joanie took all her health challenges gracefully, endured great hardships with the unfailing support of Gary and her family.We will miss her, she has touched many lives.

Paul Rinehart - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ GaryWe were saddened to hear of Joan's passing. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.Mark and Cindy Vadnais

June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

CF

“ Gary --- We are very saddened by the passing of Joanie... Our thoughts and prayers are with you, the boys and the entire Rivers family. Joanie touched so many lives in so many different ways; she will be missed by all. As they say, "another angel" received their wings! May all the beautiful memories carry you through this time....
Carol & Jack

Carol & Jack Filiault - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ Gary and family, So so so sorry for your loss. She was such a sweet sweet person that everyone loved and everyone will miss! You are in my thoughts, Kim Boudreau-Brown

June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

JH

“ Dear Chris, Jen, Hayley, Nick and Derek,
We're so sorry for your loss. I remember spending time with Joan on Lake George. You have our heartfelt sympathy.
Love,
The Hellers

Jason Heller - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

TA

“ Gary and family...words seem empty at such a sad time as this but please know we are with you in thought and prayer and will always remember how strong Joan faced life with such courage. A beautiful woman with an infectious smile. A truly special person!

Tony and MaryAnn Abuisi - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

GS

“*Joanie(I still called her that) and I shared so many childhood memories. I still remember when we connected string between two tin cans and ran it across the street so we could connect our houses so we could talk anytime and when I moved from Ohio to North Adams and ran for city council she walked with me in the fall foliage parade. Truely a life long fiend. You have a very special place in my heart. Your family has been blessed. My heart cries at this time as I am in Phoenix spending time with grandchildren and will not Be there to say goodbye. But I know we shared a great love of our grandchildren and you would understand.*

Gary and family, please know that my energy, love, prayers, and heart embrace you all at this most difficult time. I know "Joanie", "Babcie" has created wonderful memories and experiences that will keep her alive in all our hearts. She will be greatly missed.(Don't know if there are tincans and string in heaven, but I know I will always feel connected. Love, Gail

Gail Kolis Sellers - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

RM

“*Joan was a lovely lady, always smiling and cheerful. She will be missed at the North Adams Public Library.*

Robin Martin - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

KA

“*What a great person. I was lucky enough to have Mrs. Rivers as a 4th grade teacher many years ago. So sorry to all of her family members and friends for you loss.*

Kate - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

JN

“ Gary, John, Chris, Ron & families, Thoughts and prayers of sympathy to all of you at this difficult time. Joan always had such a kind heart and strong will to live which she fought so hard for. I know I will truly miss her. She is now at Peace, may memories of her love & smile see you through the days ahead. PEACE

Jane Nevares - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ Gary and family We are so very sorry to learn of Joanie's passing. Even though we have not seen you for years we always loved joanie and her wonderful, happy personality. I have so many great memories of our college sleepovers and special friendship. So very sad. God bless you and your family. Ann and Tom Lamb

June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

LH

“ Dear Gary,
I am so sorry for your loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. She was a very special lady.

Lynn Kolis Herlihy and family

Lynn Kolis Herlihy - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

HB

“ Shall miss this Lady...

Herman Bishop - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

EM

“ Dear Gary, I still remember the fun we had on those Thursday evening bike rides...your Joan was amazing! Her strength, courage and sense of humor were an inspiration. I am so sad for you, especially, and for all of us. Sincerely, Liz

Elizabeth Martin - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

BZ

“ Gary and Family, I am so sorry for your loss. Will keep you all in my thoughts and prayers. Beth

Beth Ziemba - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

AF

“ Gary, John, Chris and family,

We are so sorry for your loss and send our prayers. Your wife/mom always made all us feel welcomed whether visiting your home in N. Adams, at CGA after a football game, or when we were at John's house when she was visiting. We will be thinking of you during this difficult time.

Take care,

Muddy, Minna, Cade and Erika

Aaron Waters and family - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

LW

“ So sorry for your loss. Joan was a wonderful woman. I work at the Adams Library where I saw her many times. I pray that you all feel peace in your heart and know that she is going to a better place, no more pain, no more tears, no more night.
Love, Lyn

Lyn Wilson - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ Gary, I am so sorry for your loss. Vince Pesce

June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ Dear Gary, and family, We were so sorry to learn of Joan's passing. We will always remember our time spent with you and Joan at the Coast Guard Academy waiting for our sons to get done with whatever activity they were doing. We have seen John and his family since then. What a great young man, please accept our sincere condolences . Terry and Pat Waters

Terry and Pat Waters - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ My condolences to Joan's family on her passing. When we taught at Greylock School I enjoyed her warm and generous attitude as well as her creative and dedicated teaching ethic. I have fond memories of her vibrant personality and caring sensitivity.

dave cohen - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ Sending my condolences to all of the family. I have many fond memories of Joan, as I was best friends with Barb Skowronski Burke, her cousin. I know that the memories you have will keep Joan in your hearts forever. Sincerely, Mary Bassette

Mary Bassette - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ I'm so very sorry to hear about Joan. My prayers are with your family at this sad time.

Maureen Moore - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

JL

“ My sympathy to the family. I know Joan as a wonderful teacher.

Jacquie Locke - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

GB

“ Gary, John and family, Chris and family, and Aunt Agnes and Uncle Frank, so sorry for your loss. She is with the Angels watching down on you all. "May the stars carry your sadness away. May the flowers fill your heart with beauty. May hope forever wipe away your tears. And, above all, may silence make you strong. "

Gene and Dawn Brady - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ To Gary and Family, My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Jan (Barranger) O'Leary, Lanesborough, MA

June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

EI

“ Gary, our sincerest sympathies go out to you and your family. May god be with you all and may you cherish the wonderful memories always.

Earl & Sandy Ingalls - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM

CD

“ Gary, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

Carolina Drummond - June 07, 2018 at 12:06 PM



“ Gary, We are so sorry to hear of Joans passing. She always went out of here way to wave or stop and talk and update me on family or some adventure she was enduring, Keep her close to your Heart, God Bless

January 16, 2015 at 12:00 AM