



Rosemary Madonna Callahan "Posy" McHugh

December 4, 1926 - September 8, 2020

Rosemary Madonna Callahan McHugh, known affectionately as "Posy" a grace filled Irish Catholic woman died Tuesday September 8, 2020 in Ottawa Hills.

Born December 4, 1926 to Hugh Callahan and Anna Mackin, who emigrated from Donegal and Armagh, Ireland to America in the hope of a better life. The middle child of five siblings, John Callahan (Dec.), Kathryn Craig, Margaret LaFayette (Dec.) and Hugh Callahan, she grew up surrounded by friends and relations, and immersed in the rituals of Catholic life. She was baptized, received her First Holy Communion, attended elementary school and was married at Gesu Church, which was the foundation of her faith. She said the rosary daily. She graduated from Notre Dame Academy in 1944 and remained an active alumna.

Wearing white gloves and a hat, she interviewed following graduation with the president of American Flint Glass Workers union, then headquartered in Toledo and was hired as a secretary. For six weeks every summer, she traveled to Atlantic City, NJ, taking shorthand at meetings and typing letters. She and a friend regularly snuck out to swim in the ocean and buried the payroll cash under a beach blanket, while they frolicked in the Atlantic. Introduced by her future mother in law, she met John J. "Jack" McHugh at the Visitation Monastery during the Novena of Grace, in June 1949. She married him on Sweetest day October 21, 1950. Eight children were born of their union. An Inky's pizza usually preceded a delivery. Posy set about raising her

family with faith, love of their Irish heritage and a life-long commitment to education. She frequently recalled that the day before delivering her third son, she typed a doctoral paper, in Latin, on Pliny the elder, on an old typewriter for an oblate priest.

At the age of 32, she enrolled at Mary Manse College in January 1959. As she pursued a degree in education, she listened to French records on the hi fi, conjugating verbs while diapering and distracting kids. A blackboard was positioned next to the stove for practicing math equations. Six years and three sons later, she completed her BA and began teaching fourth grade, first at the old Horace Mann school. Later, at Greenwood, a Washington local school, she taught third grade. Her number one goal was to instill a healthy sense of self-esteem in each child as she endeavored to share her overwhelmingly positive attitude. For science projects, chicks and ducks were incubated regularly.

Frequently, after cooking dinner for ten, she used an adding machine to run grade tallies and calculate quarterly averages at the dining room table. She awarded extra points to kids who made an effort under difficult circumstances. Always one to see the value in industry, she purchased a Toledo Blade paper route in 1965, that was transferred sequentially from son to son, teaching work ethic, customer service and elementary principles of finance.

Education was a priority in her life. After a program of night study, she was awarded a Master's degree at UT in 1976, and encouraged this pursuit in her children, providing a Catholic education through high school and in several cases, throughout college. While still teaching, as a hobby, she obtained her realtors license and worked at Lindsay Realty. Retiring from teaching after twenty-five years, she then supervised student teachers at UT. With a lifelong friend, Ruth Danner, she delivered mobile meals for over twenty years.

It was a busy life, requiring tremendous energy and dedication. Whatever public obligations she fulfilled, though – and they were innumerable – Posy always made time for family and many friends, and nourished friendships for life; one, since the age of four. Her favorite saying, which she scrupulously

followed, was "if you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all".

A true daughter of Erin, she never met her grandparents, but that led to an early interest in genealogy, which she researched by writing letters to parishes in order to establish a family tree. She always embraced the Irish sense of hospitality. With eight children, her home was busy, happy and crowded but there was always room for another plate at the table or another potato in the pot. She loved a party, hosting an annual Christmas Eve party for family and friends.

Her husband died in 1999, after 49 years of a happy marriage. Many evenings after dinner they'd sit and hold hands on the sofa, listening to Irish music. Left to cherish her memory are her best friend and daughter, Sarah; sons, Thomas and his wife, Jeannie Hylant; Terrence and his wife, Karen; bachelor son, Timothy; Philip and his wife Suzanne and Daniel and his wife, Teresa; and John. Her son, James Patrick preceded her in death as did her only son-in-law, David Hart. Grandchildren include Bridget, Brendan, Colleen, Erin, Philip, Patrick, Kate, Margaret, Sean Connor and Caleigh McHugh along with Sarah's boys David Hart Jr., and L. Lee Hart; both of whom graciously opened their home for the care of Posy during these final months.

She lived at the Woodlands from 2010 until January 2020, where she played scrabble — which she hated to lose — twice a week, belonged to a book club, and a bible study group. The last several years she has been well cared for by her nurse extraordinaire, Patty K. and many aides who made her comfortable, entertained and loved, with these final months in the home of her daughter, Sarah. A life so beautifully lived deserves to be beautifully remembered.

Visitation will be at Ansberg-West Funeral Home, Friday, September 11, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. Mass of the Resurrection will be at Gesu Church on Saturday September 12 at 10:00 a.m., friends will be received one hour prior to Mass. Cemetery services will follow at Resurrection Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider Gesu Church, 2049 Parkside, Toledo, Ohio 43606 or Notre Dame Academy, 3535 W. Sylvania, Toledo Oh 43623. To send her

family online condolences, please visit www.ansberg-west.com.

“May God hold you in the palm of Her hand”

Cemetery Details

Resurrection Cemetery

5725 Hill Ave.
Toledo, OH 43615

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 11. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Ansberg-West Funeral Home
3000 W. Sylvania Ave
Toledo, OH 43613

Mass of the Resurrection

SEP 12. 10:00 AM (ET)

Gesu Catholic Church
2049 Parkside Blvd.
Toledo, OH 43607

Tribute Wall

PS

“ *Best School Teacher in my life, thank you Mrs. McHugh for your kindness all the time.*

3rd grade (1970) was the best. Patricia Sill Per my mother Helga "Mrs McHugh was a true "Mensch" in English "a person with Integrity and Honor" God Bless

pat sill - September 16, 2020 at 06:25 AM

EA

“ *Aunt Posy always had eyes that smiled. As a child it always amazed me how she survived all my cousins. Growing up other kids would ask was Mrs. McHugh your mom with a smile. I knew they were from Greenwood and they LOVED her. Aunt Posey lived an adage my dad often instilled in others. The best thing you can do for your children is to love your spouse. She exemplified that with her devotion to my Uncle Jack. Aunt Posey May have outlived him by two decades but there is no doubt she was with him in daily prayers. As a young adult, Aunt Posey would tell me about books to read. I think she loved stories because she believed in change. With eyes that sparkle it is easy to see that there is joy in the unknown. God Bless you Aunt Posey and continued blessings for those who have known you.*

Ellen McHugh Angeles - September 12, 2020 at 08:43 AM

CW

“ Dear Phil and family,

I'm thinking of you at this difficult time and sending my deepest sympathies.

Whenever a beautiful soul has passed, they leave a trail of wonderful memories. Their values, strengths and spirit are a part of you. I am hoping her legacy will be a source of strength and comfort for you now.

Sincerely sorry for your loss,

Connie White

Connie White - September 11, 2020 at 03:10 PM

BE

“ *I am sorry for you loss. My prayers and condolences to the McHugh Family.*

Byna Elliott

byna elliot - September 11, 2020 at 02:51 PM



“ *A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Rosemary Madonna Callahan "Posy" McHugh.*



September 11, 2020 at 09:38 AM

DW

“ R.I.P. "Posy". You accomplished so much during your distinguished lifetime. You and Jack had such a positive influence on so many of us over the years. May God bless the McHugh family.

Dan & Sharon White

Daniel White - September 11, 2020 at 09:30 AM

JV

“ Sarah, I am so sorry for the loss of your mom. She was a wonderful, kind, spirited lady. I remember fondly all of our conversations back in the day while celebrating Fr. Dan Earley's birthday dinner with the Oblates and all of the other St. Francis events that I would see her at throughout the years. I hope all of your happy memories help you find peace at this difficult time. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers.

Jackie VanDemark

Jackie VanDemark - September 11, 2020 at 08:58 AM

TG

“ Although a lot of miles have always separated us, I am grateful for all the times we were able to come to Toledo. Uncle Jack and Aunt Posy will always hold a special place in my heart. It brings me comfort knowing that they are back together. I am so grateful that I was able to spend an evening with Aunt Posy when I was there three years ago. That was truly a gift! Keeping all of the family in my prayers.

Theresa McHugh Gossett

Theresa McHugh Gossett - September 10, 2020 at 10:49 PM

SS

“ Sarah and Family: sending my sympathy and love as you celebrate the life of your Mom. The obituary is an account of a life VERY well-lived! It brought many smiles to my face as I read. May your hearts be full of memories and joys as you now live her legacy to a new level of fruition.

With love and prayers from one of your NDA classmates, Sr. Susan Kusz, SND (NDA '76)

Sister Susan Kusz, SND - September 10, 2020 at 06:01 PM

RH

“ Posy was a good friend to our mom, Irene Heiber, when they were residents at the Woodlands. Posy and mom would often share pre-dinner cocktails and mom always enjoyed her company. We all met Posy over the years and found her to be a delightful friend to Irene.

We are sure she will be greatly missed and our most sincere condolences.

Ron & Suzan Heiber and the Heiber family

Ronald Heiber - September 10, 2020 at 01:54 PM

CB

“ I am so sorry kids to hear of Posey's passing. We shared every lunchtime for years at Greenwood School and we knew so much about each other and our families. I looked forward to every time we were together together to catch up;. She was my support. We could pick up everytime we met in the years after when we met for our Greenwood luncheons and never miss a beat. I loved her so much. The memories will be forever. Love & Hugs to you all, especially Danny! Connie & Marty Brumbaugh

connie brumbaugh - September 10, 2020 at 12:41 PM

KK

“ Deepest sympathy to Sarah and the entire McHugh family. Your Mom is now in the presence of Our Lord. I will pray that He grants all of you comfort as you recall all the wonderful moments with your dear mother.

Ken Koperski - September 10, 2020 at 12:06 PM

MC

“ My sympathy to Posy's family. What a wonderful Irish lady. One of my favorite memories was seeing Posy at a party. She was sitting on the back porch with about six other ladies. I heard someone mention her name and noticed her after walking past a few times. I went over and said; "I wasn't ignoring you, I just didn't notice you there" She laughed and said you didn't notice me because Tim isn't here with me." Rest in peace dear lady.

Maury Collins - September 10, 2020 at 09:56 AM