



Eleanor Rita Joy

July 21, 1930 - February 9, 2026

Eleanor Rita Joy, 95, of Winchester died Monday, February 9, 2026 in Spring Arbor Assisted Living.

She was born July 21, 1930 in Grimstad, Norway the daughter of Oller and Selma Anderson Jensen.

She married Donald Paul Joy on June 24, 1950 in New York. Mr. Joy preceded her in death in 2020.

She was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the Greenwood Seniors Club, and the Parish Council of Catholic Women.

Professionally, she worked as a bank teller for 26 years.

She is survived by sisters, Techla Petersen and Sonja Auestad of Norway.

Her siblings, Anne Bentsen, Solveig Hoyjord, Gerd Auestad, Inger Knutsen, Arne Jensen, and Ole Jensen preceded her in death.

Eleanor grew up in Grimstat, Norway. After great hardship during and after WWII she immigrated to the USA in 1947. She met the love of her life Donald P. Joy, at a Norwegian dance, where Donald wowed her off her feet. They married 24 June 1950 after which they spent nearly seventy years together. she became a US citizen 30 June 1952 remaining so through life and death.

Elli was a very giving person, helping her family in Norway especially post WWII. She delighted in family, dancing with Donald, cooking, hosting dinners and parties, knitting, traveling and helping the needy. She spoke often of her and her sister Anne singing together as youngsters and she would sing those Norwegian songs to us on occasion. I could write a book filled with her stories

of Norway and her youth, occupied Norway in WWII, becoming a US Citizen, marrying Donald and their long life together. Too many to tell. But, to her family in Norway, she would want you to know, she loved and missed you all so very much and that was one story she wanted told!

Eleanor, although unable to have children of their own, loved so many as if they were hers. The Joy family, Lindsey, Margaret, Vincent, Jeannine, Allison and her beloved godson, Damien. Niece Christina and husband Harry. Niece Denise Conte. Friends that were like family, the Sissler Family: Rich, Bernie, Jeremiah, Adam, Christina, Katelynn, Maria, Mary, Lily and Sarah. Trombly Family: Randy, Patti, Matthew, Benjamin and Samuel. Very close friends Dan and Celeste, Gene and Michelle, Bill and Anne, Brit, Anne Bova, Rick and Val, Katie, Bob and Theresa only to name a few. Please know Eleanor and Donald loved you all very much. You were all in their hearts to the very end.

Eleanor and Donald were a devoted couple to each other and even more so to their Catholic faith. We all pray for them as they did for us, that they are once again united together in love, peace and good health. Hail Mary Full of Grace.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be 12:00 pm Monday at Sacred Heart Catholic Church 130 Keating Drive Winchester. Burial will follow the service in the church cemetery. Casket Bearers will be Robert & Joshua McClure, Dan Steubing, Adam & Jeremiah Sisler, and Gene Stephens.

Friends will be received 6-8:00 pm Sunday in Phelps Funeral Chapel 311 Hope Drive Winchester with a Rosary Service at 7:00 pm.

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB **15**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Phelps Funeral & Cremation Service
311 Hope Dr
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 722-2424
travislnesselrodt@gmail.com
<https://phelpsfunerals.com>

Funeral

FEB **16**. 12:00 PM.

Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church
130 Keating Dr
Winchester 22601, VA

Tribute Wall

RT

“ Eleanor and Donald were beloved honorary Grandparents to many children over the years. We were blessed to have loved, and be loved by them. Eleanor was an excellent cook and we enjoyed many meals with them.

Donald could be seen out on his daily walks with his dog. He always shared a big smile and wave. They were devout Catholics and openly shared their faith. It brings us comfort to think they are reunited..

May God Bless them.. Rest in peace..

love, Randy, Patti, Matt, Ben, and Sam Trombly
Plattsburgh, NY

Randy and Patti Trombly - February 15 at 01:37 PM

DC

“ She was a beautiful person outside as well as inside. She was a most generous person with never a cross word. She will be greatly missed. But to know she is with her Donald warms my heart. She will always be in my heart. I love you Aunt Eleanor

Denise Conte - February 14 at 03:23 PM

RO

“ Robert lit a candle in memory of Eleanor Joy



Robert - February 12 at 09:52 AM

RM

“ I would like to take just a moment to share our sympathy and condolences with the Joy and Jensen family. Knowing Eleanor has been a true blessing, a person that will not be forgotten. We loved and will miss her greatly. In this final chapter of her life, just knowing she is at peace and with her true love Donald, should let us all be at peace! There are so many lives she touched and so many that truly loved her. God bless all her family and friends,
Bob, Theresa, Zac-Anna, Josh-Anna and Brigette-Bryson

Robert & Theresa McClure - February 12 at 09:50 AM

LD

Remembering my beautiful and loving Aunt Eleanor. She was blessed in life with great love and caring from those around her. She was as loving, as she was loved. I offer my thanks to those friends, family and caregivers who attended to her and gave 'JOY' to her life! May she be with her beloved Donald and rest in peace

Lindsey Davison - February 13 at 05:01 PM

CS

To say I am heart broken to lose this dear lady would be an understatement. Over the years, Eleanor has become a beloved friend and part of my family. I loved hearing her stories of Norway...her life there, her family and her long trip across the ocean at the age of 17. She was so brave. Then, of course, were the stories of Donald and the wonderful love story they shared for over 70 years. Though I'll miss her and our time together terribly, I was blessed to call her my friend. It gives me peace to know that she no longer suffers, and that she and her sweetheart Donald have been reunited. Along with our family, Dan and I send our deepest sympathies to her sisters, her family and all who loved her.
Be at peace dear Eleanor. I will remember you forever.
With love, Celeste

Celeste Steubing - February 13 at 07:29 PM