



Carol Connelly Rossmann

December 28, 1940 - February 20, 2019

Carol Connelly Rossmann of Southampton, passed away on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at PowerBack Rehab in Moorestown. She was 78 years old. She was a longtime resident of Mt Holly.

Born in Kingston, Tennessee, Carol grew up in Baltimore, Maryland. To hear her tell it, she led a fairly idyllic childhood, with stories of horses, playing Cowboys and Indians (she always wanted to be the Indian), fishing with her father on the Susquehanna, and excelling in school. She was loved by her mother, Kathryn Agnes (Kitty) very much, but her heart belonged to daddy, Alexander Herbert (Zandy). Both passed on years ago. Her brother, Herbert Alexander (Hoopie), whom she adored as only a younger sibling can, died in 2015.

Carol was extremely intelligent and graduated from her Catholic high school two years early. She went directly to college at Mt Saint Joseph's, at the time an all-girls college, at the age of 16, followed by getting her Master's Degree in social work from Fordham University. She excelled in her studies and was devout in her beliefs. Here, she told stories of singing in the college choir and on stage (singly and with The Tetratones), conducting the school band for Dwight D. Eisenhower, and her studies. She dated during college, and had many stories of parties and dances that she attended, what she wore, and who she went with.

After college, she became a missionary in New Mexico, working on a reservation. At the time she spoke fluent Spanish, which was useful given that

the children she was working with spoke multiple languages. In New Mexico is where she met her future ex-husband, Donald Wightman, who was stationed at the Air Force base nearby. They married quickly, and then moved across the country (Ohio, Hawaii, Washington, New Jersey), having 2 sons along the way.

New Jersey is where Carol came into her own. The young family moved to the Cliver farm in Eastampton, and a life-long dream came true: "I'd like to live in a house where I can have horses in my front yard." Donald and she divorced, and she raised Michael Francis and Matthew Alexander on her own. The blessings were many, as were the hardships.

Carol had many jobs to start (mucking stalls and horse care, pumping gas at the Citgo on exit 5 of the turnpike) Carol became a Social Worker for the state of NJ. She began at Marlboro State Psychiatric unit for drug and alcohol counseling. She then was instrumental in starting the JINS unit in Mt Holly, and helped and supported numerous young women and families throughout the county. She loved appearing in court and was friends with many within the judicial system. After 10 years with JINS, she moved to foster care, recruiting and training families. She created an ad campaign "Superman had foster parents" that she was particularly proud of. The final leg of her career was in Camden doing supervision and administrative work. She retired in 2003. She spent the remainder of her life doting on her children and grand-children (Christmas was over the top!), traveling the United States and the Caribbean, and eating and drinking whatever she pleased.

She is survived by her two sons Michael Francis Wightman (and his partner Marc Alan Fischer of Philadelphia), and Matthew Wightman, her daughter (in-law) Mary Beth Murdock and two grandchildren, Lauren Connelly and Sean Matthew.

A life celebration will be held at a later date. Everyone who remembers her is asked to celebrate Carol's life in their own way; eating a rich meal, raising a glass or two or three, or a long horseback ride would all be totally appropriate. Instead of flowers, Carol would hope that you will do an unexpected and

unsolicited act of kindness for some poor unfortunate soul in her name. Or you can make a contribution in her memory may be made to: Compassionate Friends Therapeutic Riding Center, 40 Cooper Tomlinson Road, Medford NJ, 08055. It combines horses and children and therapy, which couldn't be more fitting.

Arrangements by the Perinchief Chapels, Mount Holly. www.perinchief.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Carol Connelly Rossmann*

October 29, 2022 at 11:57 AM



“ *Carol Connelly Rossmann*

October 29, 2022 at 09:53 AM



“ *I was fortunate to have worked closely with Carol as part of DYFS and JINS for several years early in my career. Her passion for life was insatiable. Her presence was indelible. I've been blessed to count her as a good friend for 45 years. Carol was special in every possible way. Her capacity to deeply touch the lives of others was boundless. She will be deeply missed. Ted Toscano*

Ted Toscano - February 26, 2019 at 05:19 PM



“ *CaCarol, was a funny lady and enjoyed being around her. Although I didnt get to spend a lot of tiSome with her when we did it was enjoyable.rol*

Letitia Marquess - February 24, 2019 at 11:35 AM

KB

“Michael, how I loved your mother so! Our time soent together was never in vain and always much longer than “necessary”. She was vastly entertaining, stirringly intelligent and uncommonly human. Her laugh and smile were infectious, her spirit never dampened and her determination unmatched. She lived an incredible life and raised doting, caring sons. I am certain that even in the end everything was done to her specifications, exactly how she wanted because she would stand for no less. Keeping you all in my prayers as you process your loss and please know your mom will live on in my heart.

Kristy Godfrey, RN, Bayada - February 24, 2019 at 07:39 AM

AM

“So sorry for your loss. Carol was always kind and funny when we spent time with her at Mary's. Her Love for her grandchildren, Lauren and Sean. You could clearly see her Love in her eyes and facial expressions when Carol would look their way. May you all find comfort through your memories and Carol's Love that continues to srround all of you.
Love Amelia & Peter and Family

Amelia - February 23, 2019 at 10:40 AM

AC

“My son Colton rode horses there for his disabilities ms carol was his trainer she was a very nice person very sweet compassionate out going she helped me a great deal with my son we will miss her and will never forget her ms carol we love u and will always miss u u will be forever in our hearts and prayers

amy collom - February 22, 2019 at 04:48 PM

AC

“ *Amy Collom lit a candle in memory of Carol Connelly Rossmann*



amy collom - February 22, 2019 at 04:45 PM