



Dolores Ann Graff

January 6, 2023

Dolores Ann Graff (nee Pettit), 78, of Fairmount, Philadelphia went to Heaven on January 6, 2023, surrounded by her loving family. She was predeceased by her husband, Francis Joseph “Booty” Graff, and is survived by her children Francis J. Graff IV (Colleen), David John Graff (Linda) and Jeanine Marie Olsson (Adam), six grandchildren who were the light of her life: Derek (Gianna), Alexandra, Kylie, Frankie V, Fiona and Devon; her sister Dottie Pettit Rute and her brother Stephen Pettit (Maria); sister-in-law Anne Marie Pettit, brother-in-law Joseph Bradley, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Dolores was born and raised in Fairmount, the oldest daughter and second child of James and Jean Pettit of 25th Street. She was predeceased by her other four siblings, James J. Pettit, Jr. (Anna), Regina Bradley (Joe), Laurence Pettit and his wife Theresa, and Irene Pettit.

After graduating from Hallahan Catholic Girls High School, Dolores went to work for Reliance Insurance Company, where she was named Miss Reliance in 1964. After Reliance, she became the Executive Assistant to the President of the Philadelphia Zoo, where she stayed until her retirement.

Dolores and Booty met when she was 12 years old, and he was her one and only love. They married on August 5, 1967 and raised their three children on 25th Street, across the street from where she had grown up. She had a very

strong faith, and was a lifelong practicing Catholic, first at St. Francis Xavier Church, where she also attended elementary school and where she sent her children, and more recently at Church of the Holy Family in Manayunk.

Dolores loved the Jersey shore, where she spent summers as a child, and then later took her own children for vacation. She and Booty moved to Sea Isle for a few years after retirement, spending their summers there and their winters in Puerto Rico, where they found a close group of “snowbird” friends. But her greatest love was her family, and she was a strong matriarch for them all and will be missed terribly.

Relatives and friends are invited to her funeral Mass at 11 am on January 11 at St. Francis Xavier Church the Oratory, 24th & Green Sts., Philadelphia. Friends may call at the Dinan Funeral Home, 1921-23 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia on Tuesday evening January 10 from 7-9 pm, and on Wednesday morning from 9-10:30 am at St. Francis Xavier Church the Oratory before the Mass. Her internment at Calvary Cemetery in Conshohocken, PA will occur on a future date. In lieu of flowers, contributions would be welcomed in her name to St. Francis Xavier School.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

JAN 11. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Francis Xavier Church The Oratory
2319 Green St
Philadelphia, pa 19130

Tribute Wall



“ *Dolores Ann Graff*

February 03, 2023 at 04:11 AM



“ *I am sure Dolores is in Heaven smiling down today. I took the train and then the bus today to St. Francis Xavier Church to attend the funeral services for Dolores. Much to my surprise I found out the services were yesterday. I am so frazzled about this. I am sure if Dolores were here, she would smile and say it is okay. She would have liked this story. She was a beautiful lady.*



Eileen Brown Elliott - January 12, 2023 at 12:21 PM



“ *John Drum lit a candle in memory of Dolores Ann Graff*



John Drum - January 10, 2023 at 07:52 PM



“ *Keeping the Graff/Pettit families in our thoughts and prayers. May your Mom/sister be at peace.*



Mike & Judi Bosaczyk - January 10, 2023 at 05:21 PM

PH

“ I know much Dolores loved her family. A day didn't go by when I didn't hear her talked about her “real life” beyond the Zoo. My deepest sympathies to all of those so dear to her.
Dolores was the hub of all that made things happen in running our Zoo. She was the source we all had to keep in touch with. And she did it with so much humor. What a delight to have Dolores in our lives. The memories will all be pleasant and long lasting.
Pete Hoskins

Pete Hoskins - January 10, 2023 at 05:14 PM

EE

“ I babysat for Dolores' three children when they were little. Dolores was a delight. She loved her children so much and her husband. She was so genuine. I love her and her children. They were like family. May she R.I.P.. God has another angel.



Eileen Brown Elliott - January 09, 2023 at 07:36 PM

NJ

“ Such a fun and wonderful coworker at the Zoo. Keeping her family in my prayers, Rest In Peace Dolores! Nancy Jo Bachrach

NJ - January 09, 2023 at 06:20 PM

HC

“ Dolores was a great person to work with at the Zoo. She was smart, funny and good at her important job. No one could roll their eyes and make a stink eye better than Dolores! I also enjoyed our many retirement get together lunches at Olive Garden and other restaurants that didn't mind if our Zoo group gabbed for a couple hours. Miss you Dolores and peace to your loving family.

hedya cerwinka - January 09, 2023 at 05:44 PM

LT

“ *Loretta And Ted lit a candle in memory of Dolores Ann Graff*



Loretta and Ted - January 09, 2023 at 03:20 PM

LC

“ *Dolores was the funniest person ever
Beautiful soul
We worked at the Zoo
One of the best to do it*

Laura Conover - January 09, 2023 at 02:47 PM

AA

“ *One of the nicest, sweetest people I ever worked with at the Philadelphia Zoo. Rest in peace - Allie Almario*

Allie Almario - January 09, 2023 at 01:56 PM

CB

“ *Clare Byrne lit a candle in memory of Dolores Ann Graff*



Clare Byrne - January 09, 2023 at 01:14 PM

PM

“ *She was always nice to me and it's important to me will miss her* ❤️👍



pat Magee mcmonagle - January 09, 2023 at 12:43 PM

JB

“ *We met Dolores and her family when our children were in grade school. Dolores is/was a woman of family and a friend that would always able to help you out. May you Rest In Peace, Dolores. Your love has left a mark on your Family, Friends and Faith. Deepest condolences to Family. Jeannie and Steve Bilynsky.*



Jeannie and Steve Bilynsky - January 09, 2023 at 12:32 PM

MH

“ *Mary Ann Henderson lit a candle in memory of Dolores Ann Graff*



Mary Ann Henderson - January 09, 2023 at 12:01 PM

PS

*Dolores was a lovely woman.
Please accept our deepest sympathy.
May she rest in peace.
Pat and Jack Stanczak*

Patricia Ann Stanczak - January 09, 2023 at 03:13 PM

PS

So sorry to hear this. Always had a laugh with her and booty whenever i ran into them. sending condolences to her family' Peg Sturts

peggy sturts - January 09, 2023 at 06:02 PM

LJ

“ *Lucy Jowett lit a candle in memory of Dolores Ann Graff*



Lucy Jowett - January 09, 2023 at 11:53 AM

DS

“ *Diane Stafford lit a candle in memory of Dolores Ann Graff*



Diane Stafford - January 09, 2023 at 11:31 AM