



Jane M. Gourley

March 11, 1932 - May 15, 2023

Jane M. Gourley, 91, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, died May 15, 2023, in Philadelphia.

She was born on March 11, 1932, to Francis and Jane Naughton in Philadelphia.

Jane is survived by her husband (John ["Jack"]), sons (John and William [Susan]), two granddaughters (Laura [Yasin] and Julia [Daniel]), a grandson (Cole), two great-grandchildren (Ercan and Emre), and a sister (Marie).

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, and two sisters.

Jane graduated from St. Francis Xavier in the commercial program. She was married to Jack for close to 74 years. In 1954 Jane began work at Smith, Kline, & French. She worked in clerical and was a line supervisor in pharmaceuticals until retiring in 1986. Following her retirement Jane enjoyed traveling in the US and internationally.

She dedicated much of her time to volunteer work on her block (as block captain, organizing block parties), in the neighborhood (Fairmount CDC, St. Francis Xavier school, and others), and with the Philadelphia Horticultural Society. She was the creator of an award-winning neighborhood garden at Parrish and Stillman Streets, which she tended for many years.

Visitation will be on Tuesday, May 23, 2023, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Dinan Funeral Home.

Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. A viewing from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian burial at St. Francis Xavier

Church (The Oratory), 24th and Green Street in Philadelphia. Father Paul will be officiating. Interment will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery in Yeadon. In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to support cancer research, (ie) Susan G. Komen Foundation, or charities such as feeding the poor or homeless.

Tribute Wall

SK

“ I remember Jane Gourley, my mother-in-law, as caring and “people smart.” She enjoyed celebrations: holidays, retirement parties, birthday parties, christenings, weddings, anniversaries were all occasions to get dressed up and then get up and dance.

We were blessed to have Jane and Jack care for our young daughters when we were working, even while she worked an evening shift. She and Jack gave them great starts by teaching them colors, numbers, letters, and words - so they could read before kindergarten. Jane supported them throughout school events and traveled to attend their weddings in Turkey and in New Orleans.

Jane worked at Smith, Kline, and French for 32 years where she held the complex job of evening shift line coordinator for production. Using her people skills and knowledge of more than 50 skill sets, she made shift assignments to meet production goals and trained more than 50 production line workers. In addition to dealing with differing personalities, she had to make quick decisions in response to unplanned change, such as a breakdown on a production line.

After retiring, Jane shifted her energies to benefit her lifelong neighborhood. She volunteered with Pennsylvania Horticultural Society projects that included planting the Ribbon of Gold around Eastern State Penitentiary, neighborhood Tree Tenders, tending the Azalea Garden next to Kelly Drive, and at the Flower Show where she served in the tearoom and in other capacities. In 1993, Jane obtained permission to clear a vacant lot at Stillman and Parrish Streets to plant a community garden. She and a group of neighbors maintained the garden and were awarded 1st, 2nd, or 3rd prizes every year for more than a decade.

As block captain for 8 years, Jane worked to ensure a clean street, obtained trees and planters for the block, received a Clean Block Award, and helped to organize block parties and Halloween celebrations. She participated in the Fairmount Community Development Corporation’s Neighborhood Improvement Committee,

including doorway gardens and anti-graffiti efforts. She volunteered for Monday lunch duty at St. Francis Xavier school, collected turkeys at Thanksgiving, and collected and wrapped Christmas gifts for distribution in the neighborhood.

In addition to her efforts for family, friends, and neighbors, I will remember Jane for her positive approach to life and her ability to accept and support people on their own terms.

Susan Krug-Gourley - July 01, 2023 at 06:11 PM

LL

“ *Such an enormous loss. My favorite memory of her is her dancing at Daniel and Julia's wedding. She was an amazing dancer and never got tired. What a joy it was to watch her. She is dancing with the angels teaching them the Jitterbug. RIP Jane.*

Laura Leon-Maurice - May 21, 2023 at 01:46 PM

JD

“ *So sorry to hear. My condolences to Jack, John, William and your entire family,*

John Devenney - May 20, 2023 at 03:07 PM

JJ

“ *Besides being a loving wife, mother, mother in law, grandmother and great grandmother our Mom has many other Loves. She loved her gardens, her cat Hobo and dancing. If she was at a wedding or an affair and music was playing, she was dancing. She taught me to Jitterbug when I was 10 yrs. old watching Bandstand and I taught her the Twist. Last but not least our Mom loved Lemon Meringue Pie. We will miss you dearly. You can dance forever now. Love You.*

John J Gourley Jr. - May 20, 2023 at 02:20 PM

RM

*Rest in God's hands Mrs. Gourley
My condolences John and family*

Regina Myers McCashin - May 20, 2023 at 08:24 PM

JF

Hi John Aunt Jane Uncle Jack are such good hearted people every Xmas when we were young always a gift aunt Jane garden on stillman myself & gf Tina helped her cleaned out a house after her 90th. Amazing woman loved her beautiful red hair. She will be missed. God Bless 🍷🍀🍷

john flaherty - May 22, 2023 at 10:51 PM

DS

“ *RIP Jane. The garden is well taken care of. L*



Diane Stafford - May 20, 2023 at 01:36 PM

LR

“ *Luanne Rounds lit a candle in memory of Jane M. Gourley*



Luanne Rounds - May 20, 2023 at 06:46 AM

BG

She was a gritty Irish woman. If she liked you you knew it. If she didn't like you you knew it. Thankfully there weren't many she didn't like, or didn't like her. She always had time for someone else, she touched so many people in her life. She was a fine example of a life well lived. She will be greatly missed.

*One more light is gone
The world's a little dimmer
One less plate to set
At our Christmas dinner
One more time to say
Thanks for all you've done
One less chance to say
I love you from your son*

Billy Gourley - May 22, 2023 at 06:40 AM