



## Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke

November 6, 1939 - November 2, 2024

Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke, a beacon of warmth, joy, and endless compassion, passed away peacefully on November 2, 2024, just shy of her 85th birthday. Born on November 6, 1939, in Detroit to James and Rosemary Gladhill, Sue grew up with a resilient and caring heart, which would become her greatest gift to the world.

A proud graduate of Berkley High School and longtime resident of Royal Oak, Sue's life was enriched with music, family, and community. Sue also found joy in watching classic movies on TMC.

Sue's childhood was touched by the early loss of her father, and at just nine years old, she stepped into the role of nurturer, caring for and supporting her siblings with boundless love and strength. Family was Sue's greatest treasure, and she held them close, protecting and uplifting them in every way she could. Her kindness and devotion were unmatched, qualities she carried into motherhood and beyond.

In high school, Sue became a dental technician, starting a career in local dental offices, and later, she shared her compassion with her community by volunteering with Meals on Wheels. Always ready to help those in need, she extended her generosity to her neighbors and embraced her role as a giver, pouring her heart into each act of service. Sue had an intuitive soul. She loved

reading scripture, was a devoted Christian, and prayed for her children and grandchildren unceasingly.

Sue was a devoted stay-at-home mom who was always there for her children and supported them in every activity and aspect of their lives. As her children grew, Sue rejoined the workforce with renewed purpose, working at senior centers where her laughter and caring spirit brought light to residents' days. Working in community food service at Clawson Manor, she forged lasting connections, finding joy in every interaction. She had a special place in her heart for seniors, babies, and dogs, showering them all with endless affection.

Sue's love of adventure and the outdoors was nurtured in her childhood memories of the family's summer home in Canada and bike rides through Huntington Woods. She cherished the ocean, and some of her happiest times were spent sailing and fishing with her father. Those cherished memories became stories she shared with her family, tales of water, laughter, and love.

Her sense of humor was as unforgettable as it was contagious. Sue's laughter filled every room she entered, and her sense of humor brightened even the darkest days. She was a talented cook, crafting delicious meals for Thanksgiving and perfecting pot roast for her loved ones. There was nothing she wouldn't do to bring comfort and joy to her family and friends. Sue was the best listener and would always know what to say to someone in a crisis.

Sue is survived by her beloved children, Kathleen (TJ) Moriarty, Tim (Joy) O'Rourke, Colleen (Brian) Taylor, and Terrienne (Andy) Gould, each of whom she cherished deeply. She was the adoring grandmother of Logan O'Rourke, Brianna (Josh) Guisbert, and Aidan (Emily) Taylor, who brought her immense pride and happiness. Sue is also remembered by her dear sister Lucia (the late John) Poole, and was predeceased by her brothers Joe (the late Marilyn) Gladhill and Jim Gladhill. She leaves behind treasured nieces and nephews:

Vicki and Jim Poole, and Amanda and Jimmy. Sue was also the former spouse of the late Patrick O'Rourke.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Sue's incredible life and spirit at a memorial visitation on Friday, November 15, from 4-6 pm, with a sharing of memories at 6 pm at Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Home, 705 W. 11 Mile Rd. (4 blocks east of Woodward), 48067. Her memorial service will take place on Saturday, November 16, at Troy Christian Chapel, 400 E. Long Lake Rd, Troy, 48085, where the family will receive friends from 9:30 am until the time of service at 10:30 am. Sue's final resting place will be at Oakview Cemetery in Royal Oak.

In keeping with her giving spirit, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to Meals on Wheels or a senior or homeless center of your choice. Please join us in celebrating Sue's life, and share your memories at [www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com](http://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com).

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

NOV **15**. 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Sharing of Memories

NOV **15**. 6:00 PM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak  
705 W. Eleven Mile Road  
Royal Oak, MI 48067  
(248) 541-7000  
royal@sullivanfh.com  
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

## Memorial Service

NOV **16**. 10:30 AM (ET)

Troy Christian Chapel  
400 E. Long Lake Rd.  
Troy, MI 48085

*Gathering at 9:30 am*

# Tribute Wall



“ *Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors created a Webcast in memory of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke*



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**Wm. Sullivan & Son Funeral Directors** - November 14, 2024 at 01:11 PM



“ *Pink Potpourri Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.*



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November 15, 2024 at 11:48 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.*

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November 14, 2024 at 08:53 PM



“ *Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.*



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November 14, 2024 at 08:53 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.

November 12, 2024 at 10:53 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.



November 12, 2024 at 10:53 AM



“ *I met Sue around the same time I became good friends with her younger sister, Lucia. That was around 1951-53. I thought she was super cool. She was always so welcoming...and amusingly funny. Three memories came up. When Lucia and I were probably in our early teens, Bob Newhart was popular. I remember Sue acting out a droll impersonation of him and how Lucia and I laughed and laughed. She also either gave us -- or we snuck them from her (I don't remember which is true) some cigarettes which we furtively smoked in the bedroom, blowing smoke out the window. (We were never caught.) Another time, while Sue wasn't around, Lu and I tried on all of Sue's prom dresses and danced all over the house. I don't remember if Sue was upset that we did this (did we bother to get permission?) but I suspect she was amused and wished she could have been there to join in the fun. Sue was a woman with a lot of soul and passion for living and for those she loved. I was always happy to visit with her in the years after we all grew up. A lovely, generous, and good person. (Carol Cowell Stone)*

Carol Stone - November 09, 2024 at 06:27 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.

November 08, 2024 at 10:46 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.



November 08, 2024 at 10:46 AM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.



November 06, 2024 at 08:05 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.



November 06, 2024 at 10:32 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.

November 06, 2024 at 10:32 AM

TF

“ TJ, Kathleen and family purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.



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**TJ, Kathleen and family** - November 05, 2024 at 01:30 PM

KO

“ I'm the Eldest Child, Kathleen O'Rourke whom was truly loved and blessed to have a Mom like My Mom. What Resonates the most is her ability to listen with your heart ❤️ when connecting to other's company . She taught us all how to swim, sing, draw 🖍️ pictures, 😂 laugh out loud with no apologies, and dance to music 🎵 whenever and wherever. Most of all freedom of expression with her deepest respect for life. Equality is essential for all!!!! My Mother's spirit lives eternally ; I know in my soul ❤️

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**Kathleen O'Rourke** - November 05, 2024 at 10:45 AM

TM

*Beautifully stated Kathleen!!!  
Your Mom and Grandma are up there in Heaven smiling down on you and your siblings. Never forget your Mom's teachings and pass them along to those you love ❤️❤️❤️❤️🇮🇷🇺🇸  
You guys are in our thoughts & prayers  
Love Brenda & Tim McGraw*

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**Timothy McGraw** - November 06, 2024 at 10:15 AM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rosemary "Sue" O'Rourke.*



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November 04, 2024 at 09:57 PM