



Joyce Ruth (Entwistle) DeCristoforo

December 10, 1943 - June 9, 2024

Joyce DeCristoforo (née Entwistle) was born in Boise, Idaho on December 10, 1943. Her parents, Ruth Fiske (Gillam) Turcotte and Jack Entwistle were from Saugus, MA but were traveling at the time of her birth as her father was in bomber pilot training during WWII. Joyce passed away on June 9, 2024 after a brave and inspirational battle with multiple myeloma. She leaves behind her loving husband of 56 years, Ron; darling daughters Bonnie (Christian) Campagnuolo of Vienna, VA and Denise (Christopher) Reed of Winter Garden, FL and five precious grandchildren; Jonathan, Grace, James, Benjamin and Sofia. She is preceded in death by brothers, Robert John Entwistle of Peabody, MA and Bruce James Entwistle of Saugus, MA.

Joyce grew up in Saugus, MA and while a student at Saugus High School, discovered her passion for helping people. While still in school she volunteered as a candy striper at a local nursing home before entering St. Elizabeth's Hospital School of Nursing in Brighton, MA. She was able to finance her education by working some weekends and overnight shifts at St. Elizabeth's. She graduated in 1964 as a Registered Nurse and began working at Melrose-Wakefield Hospital and later became a visiting nurse for the Lynn Visiting Nurses Association in Lynn, MA. She met her husband Ron in 1963, and they married in 1968. Joyce supported the young couple while Ron completed his engineering degree before they started a family.

Joyce set aside her nursing career for a short time to raise Bonnie and Denise. In 1980 she became the nurse for Life Concepts, Inc. (later Quest, Inc.) in Orlando, FL. The agency cared for developmentally disabled adults who were transitioning from archaic hospital wards to independent living facilities throughout the community. Her career grew along with the agency, and she earned the role of Director of Nursing. In the early 2000's she joined other nurses in the area through the Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association to set nursing certification standards. She became one of the first accredited Certified Developmental Disabilities Nurses (CDDN).

Her Catholic faith was an integral part of her life and she was active for over 40 years at St. Andrew Catholic Church and school in Orlando, FL. She volunteered her time and talents by leading RCIA and baptism preparation classes, frequently covering the front desk at the rectory, participating in many parish initiatives and distributing food with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. She only stopped when illness made it no longer possible to continue.

People often remarked that she had touched their lives for the better. Her manner was patient, she listened intently and had an innate ability to console. Throughout her battle with this disease, her first inclination was always to ask about others' well-being.

Joyce set the bar when it came to balancing a fulfilling career and being a devoted wife and mother. She loved being with people, traveling (anywhere and everywhere), going to theater and movies, cooking for anyone who came through the door, and rooting for her Red Sox. She was also known to visit a casino now and then. Her greatest joy came when the grandkids arrived. Her paternal grandmother, Alice Entwistle, showered her with love, and Joyce wanted to do the same for her grandkids. She was a regular and active participant in each of the grandkids' lives, creating memories that will always be alive in their hearts.

She lived and loved her life to the fullest and touched countless people along the way. She leaves a legacy of service, strength, and kindness. Our sadness now is a testament to how much we love her and will miss her.

Viewing to take place on June 13, 2024 from 6:00-8:00 PM at DeGusipe Funeral Home; 1400 Matthew Paris Blvd, Ocoee, FL 34761.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated in her honor on June 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM at St. Andrew Catholic Church; 801 North Hastings Street, Orlando, FL 32808. Graveside service immediately following at Woodlawn Cemetery in Gotha.

All are welcome to attend and celebrate Joyce's life.

Following the cemetery service, there will be light refreshments at the Reed family home. Join us in reflecting on her wonderful life and perhaps sharing some of your personal memories.

Joyce's decision to seek novel cancer treatments came from her often-stated wish to someday "hold my great grandbabies." Doctors and researchers are getting so close to making that dream a reality. So, in lieu of flowers, and in the hope that someday all the nanas in this world can hold their great grandbabies, please consider donating to the International Myeloma Foundation (IMF) in Joyce's memory. <https://www.myeloma.org>

Cemetery Details

Woodlawn Memorial Park

400 Woodlawn Cemetery Road
Gotha, FL 34734

Previous Events

Public Viewing

JUN 13. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory West Orange Chapel
1400 Matthew Paris Blvd.
Ocoee, FL 34761
(407) 695-2273
todd@degusipe.com
<https://www.DeGusipeFuneralHome.com>

Graveside Committal Service

JUN 14 (ET)

Woodlawn Memorial Park
400 Woodlawn Cemetery Road
Gotha, FL 34734

Tribute Wall

PD

“Joyce was certainly the best boss I have ever had. I had the privilege of working with her in the 1990’s. She was a consistent source of encouragement. Kindness was her calling card. She also was a wonderful source of knowledge and if she didn’t know the answer she knew someone who did. Every person whose life she touched was better because of her. If you want to know what a life well lived is then just look at Joyce’s life. Rest in peace Joyce and thank you for all you have done for so many.

Paul Durand - July 07, 2024 at 06:12 AM

DW

“2 files added to the album Prom Pics in the Park



Denise Wilkison - June 19, 2024 at 09:52 PM

RL

“Joyce had such an impact on my life. She was Quest nurse when I taught at Life Concepts. Then when she became director at Quest North, she opened the door for Patrick’s acceptance there. She let me know when there was about to be an opening at a Quest group home and he has lived there for more than 20 years. For more than 20 years she was my medical advisor for Patrick. I always knew she was a reliable source when I had questions. May she rest in peace Joyce. □

Rita Law - June 15, 2024 at 02:35 PM

MR

“Joyce was a wholesome, selfless, caring, and loving person who didn't have a mean bone in her body. She was not only my boss for several years at Quest, but she was also a trusted friend who guided me through one of the toughest periods of my life with genuine encouragement. When my husband and I returned home from adopting our daughter in Colombia, she greeted Julie with open arms and had planned a big celebration in her honor. I feel beyond blessed to have known such an extraordinary person. RIP Joyce. Thank you for spreading love and compassion wherever you went. We are all better people for having known you.

Miriam Roth - June 13, 2024 at 11:37 PM

BO

“Never have I admired more the Dignity, Grace, and Resilience of this wonderful woman. I didn't have the pleasure of knowing Joyce for a long time, but in the time that I did, she taught me that strength and courage comes from within. I am blessed to have known her. She was and always will be a Shining Candle in the Wind. She was one of God's Gifts on Earth and will be missed. Wishing Peace to her dear family.



Bobbie - June 13, 2024 at 07:35 AM

ST

“I worked at Quest with Joyce. She always knew what to say to help people feel special, and I will always be grateful for the skills I learned from her. I will always miss her.

Scott Traynor - June 12, 2024 at 10:23 PM

CW

“ I will always remember this kind loving lady from the days at Life Concepts. Joyce fought a good fight and kept the faith and one day I will see her again and we can shout he victory. Love Peace and Strength . I pray that God gives to Joyce's family. Sincere Sympathy
Cynthia Bellamy Williams of Gainesviile

Cynthia B Williams - June 12, 2024 at 11:45 AM

JS

“ Joyce was my wife’s best friend and also helped in the delivery room of my first child now 55 we have been friends since high school and she will be missed

John Slezinger Sr. - June 11, 2024 at 06:45 PM

PD

“ There are no words that could adequately state how great a person Joyce was. I worked with Joyce at Quest. Kindness and wisdom was always her calling card. I’m a better person for knowing her.

Paul Durand - June 11, 2024 at 03:28 PM

FW

I worked with Joyce at Quest for several years and she was so caring and thoughtful. She was like a motherly angel on earth always where she was needed the most and always with that special fun loving smile. Those who knew her will never forget her.

Fran Walker - June 12, 2024 at 03:28 PM

BM

I have been thankful for a friendship with Joyce since I arrived in the state of Florida. We worked together for over 20 years and remained friends since then. We have worked together at Life Concepts/Quest and then as I was a support coordinator. She touched so many lives of all that she knew. I will miss her deeply and grieve that we no longer can share memories together. I know that she loved her family beyond measure and I know that her death will be hard to bare. Our love goes out to her whole family and especially to Ron, Bonnie and Denise.

Barbara mooses - June 13, 2024 at 11:44 AM

JD

We're so sorry to hear of Joyce's passing. Although we haven't seen Joyce in many years, we remember our times together at St Andrew Church in the 1980's and 1990's. Her girls Bonnie and Denise attended school there with our kids Andrea and John. Joyce was a warm, caring, giving Christian, always giving of her time and talents at the school and the church. We remember her soft voice and her beaming smile! We pray that God will bring comfort and peace to Ron, Bonnie, Denise, and all the family.

Our deepest sympathy, John and Pam D'Amore

John and Pam D'Amore - June 17, 2024 at 04:17 PM

DW

Joyce was a wonderful person who made sure she was there for all the special moments. I posted a couple pictures when we all met in the park in 2018 to take Senior Prom pictures of the girls (Grace her granddaughter) & my daughter Amber. It was a beautiful day, and Nana was there for that special day as she was present for so many other important celebrations. Today I celebrate Joyce for the life she lived, the love she gave, and the happy memories she left to all that knew her.

My deepest sympathy to the Reed family and to everyone else who was touched by her love and friendship.

Denise Wilkison

Denise Wilkison - June 19, 2024 at 09:51 PM