



Joan Mary Oppen

August 24, 1933 - May 30, 2026

On Saturday, May 30, 2026, Joan Mary (Butula) Oppen passed away in Old Bridge, New Jersey, at the age of 92. The daughter of the late Eleanor (Connolly) Butula and Joseph Butula, she was born on August 24, 1933, in Plainfield, New Jersey, and was the Class of 51 salutatorian at Mount Saint Mary Academy. Joan married the late Elwood Martin Oppen and moved to Old Bridge, New Jersey, in 1966. She obtained an Associate Degree in Business from Middlesex College and worked at the local bank, Pulte Homes, and in management at IBM, earning numerous awards, including Employee of the Year, for her competence and hard work.

Joan was the backbone and matriarch of her family, hosting sixty Thanksgiving dinners over the course of her lifetime and into her 90s. She was a devout parishioner of Saint Ambrose Parish and loved dark chocolate, reading, TV dramas, and her multiple canine companions over the years, including Lucky, Daisy, Marcy, Choppy I, Choppy II, and Norton.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by her sons, David and Paul Oppen; her sister, Eleanor (Butula) Conrad; her brother, Joey Butula; and her nephew, William Conrad.

She is survived by her sons and daughters-in-law, Peter and Gloria Oppen, and Michael and Merlie Oppen; her grandchildren, Robert Oppen, Kimberly

Oppen, Timothy Oppen, Susan Oppen, Catherine DiGregorio, Elizabeth Pogue, Benjamin Oppen, and Michael Oppen; her nieces, Carolyn and Ellen Conrad; and numerous great-grandchildren.

Private services will be held on June 3, 2026. In lieu of flowers, donations to Salvation Army are appreciated.

Joan will be remembered for her generosity, her sharp memory, her famous coleslaw and coffee cake, her independence, her compassion for her canine best friends, her dedication to what is right, and, of course, her love for her family.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.HegartyScaliaFuneralHome.com

Tribute Wall

MO

“ Dear Ellen, Carolyn and Oppen Family,

I am sorry for your loss. I had the pleasure of meeting "Auntie Joan" many years ago. I was so happy I had that opportunity. She was a quiet and kind lady. I pray for you all and may your warm memories of her bring you all comfort and peace during this difficult time.

Respectfully, Maureen O'Malley

Maureen OMalley - June 04 at 10:13 AM

LP

“ Dear Peter, Gloria and family, Please accept our sincere condolences on the loss of your mother. Although we never had the privilege of meeting her, hearing about her holiday gatherings and reading about her life painted a picture of a remarkable woman whose love, dedication, and strength were at the center of her family for many years. It is clear she leaves behind a legacy of cherished traditions, treasured memories, and a family who meant the world to her.

My thoughts are with all of you during this difficult time. May the love of family, the comfort of friends, and the many wonderful memories of your dear mother, bring all of you peace and strength in the days ahead.

With our deepest sympathies, Louis, Lucia and the Ponte Family

Lucía Ponté - June 02 at 10:23 PM