



Máire Sweeney

April 17, 1940 - February 9, 2024

On February 9th Máire T. Sweeney, 83 passed away peacefully with her daughter Fiona Keegan by her side.

Máire Sweeney was born to James and Nora Sweeney in Gweedore, Donegal, Ireland in 1940. She was 1 of 5. She is predeceased by her brother Paddy Sweeney and sister Nora Sweeney. And survived by her sister Eileen Campbell and brother in law Paddy Campbell in the USA, and her brother Eamonn Sweeney and sister in law Marian and all extended family, her nieces, nephews, cousins and friends back in Ireland.

Máire had a love of the Irish sea and loved poetry and her native Irish Language. Máire was fearless, following her Father's footsteps she worked at a young age at the family dairy and drove the lorry in town. She was called Máire 'n Bhainne (bhainne being the word for milk in Irish) so this was to distinguish her from the other Máires in town.

Máire was destined for adventure; she went on to boarding school in Portrush Co. Antrim where she commented this opened her eyes to a world beyond rural Ireland. She then went on to college in Dublin with her eldest sister Eileen. This paved the way for her to gain confidence to travel to London where she worked at the British Foreign Embassy in London for 2 years. The lure of New York City and America certainly was something, and she was lucky that she was smart and able to navigate the terrain. She then worked at the Food Economist, embracing her love of design and cuisine, and met her late husband Mac Millian Johnson and they had 1 daughter Fiona Johnson-

Keegan.

With the love of the Ocean she went on to reside in Long Branch New Jersey. For the last 45 years she made the house into a Guest House for all to enjoy. Anyone who stayed at the Errigal House felt welcome and the warm touch of hospitality. My Mother's love of making ugly things beautiful furnished the house over the years. Her Irish kitchen that she loved with a stone fireplace and mantle that was decorated every holiday season throughout the years. In the earlier years she loved to entertain and have lavish dinner parties. We still see the cows on top of the cabinets in the kitchen that encompass Ireland. She leaves behind her daughter Fiona Keegan and her son in law John Keegan and her grandsons Michael and Liam Keegan. They were her pride and joy, which she enjoyed sharing stories and playing Netball (basketball) 7 months up to her passing. She was also in the midst of teaching the Irish language to her Grandsons. While writing this, I asked them what they remember about Grandma, and they said she was kind hearted, hard working, vibrant, very optimistic and always thought of others before herself. Her family and friends can attest to this. She will be missed, but will always live on in our hearts and memories that we shared. Rest in peace beautiful soul.

A Mass will be held at St. Michael's on Friday, February 23rd at 10:30am.

Committal prayers will follow at Woodbine Mausoleum in Oceanport, NJ.

Cemetery Details

Woodbine Cemetery & Mausoleum

1173 Eatontown Blvd
Oceanport, NJ 07757

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

FEB **23**. 10:30 AM (ET)

St. Michael's R.C. Church of West End
796 Ocean Avenue
Long Branch, NJ

Tribute Wall



“ 2 files added to the album *Máire's Funeral Mass*



Bongarzone Funeral Home - February 24, 2024 at 01:13 PM



“ *Dear Fiona, John, Michael and Liam,
I am so saddened to learn of Maire's passing.
She was a wonderful person in so many ways, and the mold was
definitely broke when she was born!!
I have many fond memories of times in her presence, and truly wish
that I had kept in better touch with her the last several years.
It's heartwarming to see all the pictures with her grandsons, and to
read the great tributes from her friends.
I can still hear her voice.
Much love*

Jerri Lynch

Jerri Lynch - February 22, 2024 at 03:36 AM



“ *Paddy Sweeney purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Máire Sweeney.*



Paddy Sweeney - February 20, 2024 at 04:12 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue* was purchased for the family of Máire Sweeney.



February 20, 2024 at 03:14 PM



“ *My friendship with Moya like others was instant, she invited me into her life with enthusiasm, kindness and constant laughter. We spent our time reliving our childhoods, stories of family and the lives we left behind; Ireland was never far from her thoughts. I was blessed to be introduced to her family and friends through her stories, and with joy and love in her voice, she painted me pictures of her life journey and how Long Branch became her home.*

Our tea & biscuit sessions were often accompanied by hoots of laughter as we shared stories of our week, she especially liked it when my dogs tagged along and was disappointed when I left them home. My time with Moya was always full of joy and I shall miss her, she was a bright star, one of those people that touched your life and made it a better place.

Moya Sweeneys journey from Donegal Ireland to NYC, then settling in Long Branch NJ should never be downplayed, during a time when opportunities for women were limited, she navigated her way overcoming the challenges of the time, achieving success in her business career, but her greatest legacy will be the love and light she directed towards others. Moya, thank you for your friendship, I will miss you - God Bless you. XO

Lilly Calder-Brosch - February 20, 2024 at 02:22 PM



“ *Rose Remembrance was purchased for the family of Máire Sweeney.*



February 19, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ *From Cormac, Maeve, Sinéad, Jim and Anna planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Máire Sweeney.*

From Cormac, Maeve, Sinéad, Jim and Anna - February 19, 2024 at 09:55 AM



“ *Meeting Maire was meant to be. We became instant friends then found out we were family through marriage. I really enjoyed watching her command a room with her inquisitive personality. Always finding a new person to conspire with. Maire was a great listener and amazingly remembered even the most trivial things. The best was her adventurous stories. She had a way to keep you captivated. She moved easily into the hearts of myself, friends and family. She will be greatly missed and I know she'll be watching over all her loved ones....*

Georgeann Chamas - February 17, 2024 at 11:07 PM

MM

“ Aunt Maire was a beautiful lady inside and out. I remember going to my senior prom at the Berkeley Carterette. as I was walking in with my date and Maire was walking out with her dinner date. We said our hello's then she proceeded to fix my hair. Check my make up, give me a kiss. Tell me have a wonderful time as I started to walk away I felt the tug on the back of my dress. she was fluffing out the back of my dress because it had some wrinkles. She said now you're perfect. Go have some fun. she's going to be miss very much

Maureen McCauley - February 17, 2024 at 07:49 PM

GC

Meeting Maire was meant to be. We became instant friends and then found we were family through marriage. I really enjoyed watching her command a room with her inquisitive personality. Always finding a new person to conspire with. Maire was a great listener and amazingly remembered even the most trivial things. The best were her adventurous stories. She had a way to keep you captivated. Maire moved easily into the hearts of myself, friends and family. She will be greatly missed. And I know she will be watching over all her loved ones...

Georgeann Chamas - February 17, 2024 at 09:57 PM

LO

“ Missing you

Lou - February 16, 2024 at 09:44 AM

LO

“ Lou lit a candle in memory of Máire Sweeney



Lou - February 16, 2024 at 09:44 AM

SB

“Maire and I met while we were both shopping a few years ago. An unlikely couple of new acquaintances, she was a mature woman from Ireland and I, a middle aged woman from Colombia. We both loved fashion and meeting new people. Our relationship grew and we saw each other on occasion and drank tea and had wonderful conversation. I am going to miss her very much, and I hope to stay in touch with her daughter. To Fiona and her family I send my love and prayers for peace. Allie, my daughter also sends her love. slán go fóill. Goodbye for now my dear Friend ☐



Samantha Bouchoux - February 15, 2024 at 10:12 PM

LO

Missing you

Lou - February 16, 2024 at 09:39 AM

WS

I'll miss you Maire. 💔💔

William Schlenger - February 18, 2024 at 10:10 AM

FK

“*Friendship*”

A Friend is someone who's Friendship you hold dear. To share your laughter and console you when you shed a tear. When you are weary, ill in bed or in need. A Friend will sacrifice time, do any deed. Friendship is something money can not buy, it has 2 props Loyalty and Sincerity, it's destruction a lie! A Friend can be callus cruel & sometimes blind. But, to know a true friendship is to come very close to the Sublime!

Ma'ire Sweeney

Fiona Keegan - February 15, 2024 at 02:05 PM

SD

*Fiona,
Your Mom was a beautiful person inside and out, just like you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.*

Susan DeRise - February 15, 2024 at 03:08 PM

MO

*Fiona, condolences to you, John, Michael and Liam. Sending you much love and prayers at this difficult time. I am going to miss your Mom big time. She was the best, so special, had such an infectious laugh, amazing energy and such a big heart. I met Moya 37 years ago , she was the 1st Irish person I met the year after I arrived from Ireland so she was like a breath of fresh air that I needed. We clicked instantly, 2 Aries signs our birthdays a day apart. She had me over to her fireplace the next day for Tea to meet her best friend Sr Francis and I can't believe they are now both in Heaven RIP. We chatted for hours and were friends since. The 3 of us being from Ireland had so much to talk about that day. That meet up changed my life. Instead of going back to Ireland I ended up going to Nursing School here and the rest is history. I've so many great memories over the years, laughs, chats and experiences to hold on to. I'll miss her terribly but I'm relieved Moya is reunited with her Parent's that she spoke of so fondly and of course our dear friend Francis. I can almost hear the 2 of them , Moya saying , Oh what is Fiona and Mary saying about me now and Francis saying ,,sssh and listen woman Such fun great times and special memories I'll always have. I will miss you my dear Friend, our little Irish chats where you would be throwing your eyes up because of my Laois dialect 🍀 I will also miss your phone calls at night. Nights when I would get off the phone and John was saying what were you two laughing this time at for the past hour,, my response would be, I honestly don't know lol. Please don't worry about Fiona. You will always be together and as I promised you I will be in touch with her ofton. Give Francis a hug for me. Until we meet again, Is Gra liom thu.
Mary, John, Sean, Patrick and Ronan O'Beirne. 🍀🙏
Ar Dheis Lamh De a bhfuil si.*

Mary O'Beirne - February 15, 2024 at 11:56 PM

FK

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Fiona Keegan - February 15, 2024 at 12:18 PM

BH

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Máire Sweeney*



Bongarzone Funeral Home - February 10, 2024 at 05:19 PM

WS

So sorry to hear my long time friend Maire has passed. A beautiful person inside and out. She loved my dog and my artwork. A true Irish lady.

William Schlenger - February 18, 2024 at 07:37 AM