



## HELEN GOCELJAK

April 1, 1942 - September 16, 2024

### VISITATION:

THURSDAY: OCTOBER 3, 2024

5PM TO 8PM

STICKLE-SOLTESZ FUNERAL HOME

### FUNERAL MASS:

FRIDAY: OCTOBER 4, 2024

10:30AM

ST. JOSEPH RC CHURCH

454 GERMANTOWN ROAD

WEST MILFORD, NJ 07480

### PRIVATE FINAL DISPOSITION

Helen S. Goceljak, (nee Stanley), 82, of West Milford, NJ, known widely and to her friends as “Sandy”, passed away peacefully surrounded by her children on Monday, September 16, 2024.

Helen was born in New York City on April 1, 1942 and lived there most of her early life, attending and graduating from Fordham University in 1962

It was there she met the love of her life, John Goceljak, from Clifton, New

Jersey. They were married in 1962 and lived in Passaic, New Jersey until 1964, before moving to West Milford, NJ, where they spent the rest of their lives.

Helen worked as a teacher after finishing school, but spent most of her life building and raising a family of four children in West Milford. She was member of St. Joseph's R.C. Church where she worked as an usher and was an active volunteer throughout town her whole life, contributing her time to too many groups to list including, the Macopin Fire Department Ladies Auxillary, the Hillcrest Senior Center, the American Legion, and Queen of Peace church, where she also frequently attended mass. Helen also worked in town for different day care centers and at Sears Hardware store.

Her kindness and creativity were boundless. She had a passion and talent for crafts, especially crocheting. Her creations such as baby clothing, hats and sweaters were donated to those in need, such as medical patients and the convalescent.

She was widowed in 1999, and preceded in death by her daughter-in-law Kerry Goceljak in 2019.

Helen is survived by her four children John Goceljak and his wife Donna, Mike, Marie and Vincent; her three grandchildren: Michael, John and Amanda; her sister Mary Eisenstein of Long Island; as well as many in-laws, nieces and nephews.

The family will receive visitors on Thursday: October 3, 2024 from 5pm to 8pm at the Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home, 187 La Rue Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435.

The funeral mass will take place on Friday: October 4, 2024 at 10:30am at St.

Joseph's RC Church, 454 Germantown Road, West Milford, NJ 07480.

On line condolences and directions: [www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com](http://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 3. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home

187 La Rue Road

(Parallel to Route 23 North between Clinton Road and Union Valley Road)

Newfoundland, NJ 07435

(973) 697-6700

[info@sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com](mailto:info@sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com)

<https://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com>

## Funeral Mass

OCT 4. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Joseph RC Church

454 Germantown Road

West Milford, NJ 07480

(973) 697-6100

# Tribute Wall

DP

“ *Denise Pavilonis purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of HELEN GOCELJAK.*



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**Denise Pavilonis** - October 03, 2024 at 12:39 PM

GP

“ *George & Maria Papadopoulos purchased the Vivid Recollections for the family of HELEN GOCELJAK.*



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**George & Maria Papadopoulos** - October 03, 2024 at 07:35 AM

DM

“ My dear friend Sandy we first met working together at Sears hardware in town from the start I was amazed at what a hard worker she was and how intelligent of an individual that truly believed in giving 100% for whatever she was doing whether it was assisting the customer helping a friend or shoveling snow off her roof in the middle of winter. She cared for so many people in the community and assisted with so many organizations one in particular crocheting and knitting club. I watched her through the years make dozens of outfits and blankets for needy children through organizations she was involved with, I myself was fortunate to have custom-made special, Sandy edition, baby outfits, and blankets for all my grandchildren, and they will be cherished because the love that went into them. And let's not forget Her sarcastic sense of humor, and her ability to put you in your place without even realizing it was happening until you walked away and thought what just went on??? I will especially miss the holidays and the funny stories that we talk about and boy could she talk? You pretty much listened and maybe you got a word in at some point just maybe. She had a heart of gold and worked endlessly for the vets, the Legion, fire department and Church in town. Sandy always spoke Of how proud she was and loved her children and grandchildren for who they became as adults and what they were still accomplishing in their lives. She will be greatly missed not only by myself, but by everyone that loved her. And every time I drive past that house in the winter and look up at that roof line i'll see her up there shoveling that dam snow off. I hope God's ready for her up there. I don't think he knows what he's in for. Love, Dean, Dolores and family 🙏❤️

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Dean Monti - October 03, 2024 at 12:12 AM

RO

“ Our deepest condolences to the entire Goceljak family. Ron Russo and Arda Agulian.

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Ron - October 02, 2024 at 12:26 PM



“ - Guttormsens, Russos & Petersons purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of HELEN GOCELJAK.



- Guttormsens, Russos & Petersons - October 02, 2024 at 11:07 AM



“ - Guttormsens, Russos & Petersons planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of HELEN GOCELJAK.

- Guttormsens, Russos & Petersons - October 02, 2024 at 11:07 AM



“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of HELEN GOCELJAK.



October 02, 2024 at 08:59 AM



“ Karl & Nancy, Toni & Drew planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of HELEN GOCELJAK.

Karl & Nancy, Toni & Drew - October 02, 2024 at 08:59 AM

DS

“ Daniel S. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of HELEN GOCELJAK.

Daniel S. - October 01, 2024 at 02:50 PM

MC

“ Nana" was a beautiful person with a great sense of humor. She was a strong person, full of energy, capable of performing heavy construction projects by herself. We will deeply miss you.

Mrs. Mang Chee and David Chee - September 30, 2024 at 09:48 PM

MC

“ Mrs. Mang Chee and David Chee purchased the Rainbow Of Remembrance Spray for the family of HELEN GOCELJAK.



Mrs. Mang Chee and David Chee - September 30, 2024 at 09:28 PM

MS

“ Sandy" was a special friend, we admired her generous spirit and her sense of humor. We will keep her in our prayers.

Martha Serben - September 28, 2024 at 02:46 PM

FS

“ From Michael & Martha Serben purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of HELEN GOCELJAK.



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**From Michael & Martha Serben** - September 28, 2024 at 02:27 PM

EC

“ Ed Chonko purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of HELEN GOCELJAK.



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**Ed Chonko** - September 27, 2024 at 11:55 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of HELEN GOCELJAK.



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September 24, 2024 at 11:02 AM

PT

“ Patrick/Toni and the EFDS team. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of HELEN GOCELJAK.

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**Patrick/Toni and the EFDS team.** - September 24, 2024 at 11:02 AM



“ *Sweet Tranquility Basket was purchased for the family of HELEN GOCELJAK.*



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September 23, 2024 at 04:31 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of HELEN GOCELJAK.*



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September 23, 2024 at 04:26 PM