



MARY I. RYAN-ZANOTTI

December 16, 1950 - June 4, 2026

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS MEMORIAL DONATIONS MAY BE MADE IN MARY'S
NAME TO:

DEPARTMENT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
P.O. BOX 2539
1 CATHOLIC CHARITIES WAY
OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07438
<https://www.ccpaterson.org/zanotti>

VISITATION:

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 2026

3PM TO 7PM

STICKLE-SOLTESZ FUNERAL HOME

FUNERAL MASS:

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026

10AM

ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE RC CHURCH

5635 BERKSHIRE VALLEY ROAD

OAK RIDGE, NEW JERSEY 07438

973-208-0090

INTERMENT:

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 2026

NORTH HARDYSTON CEMETERY

ROUTE 94

HAMBURG, NEW JERSEY 07419

(HARDYSTON TWP)

Mary Ryan-Zanotti

It is with great sadness, and with hearts full of gratitude for a life so beautifully lived, that we announce the passing of Mary Ryan-Zanotti, 75, of Oak Ridge, New Jersey, formerly of Highland Lakes, New Jersey. Mary was a woman whose warmth, generosity, and boundless love touched everyone fortunate enough to know her.

Mary was born to her beloved parents, John and Margaret Ryan, who preceded her in death. She was the cherished wife of the late Ferruccio "Pucci" Zanotti, and together they built a home that was always open, always welcoming, and always filled with love. She was the devoted sister of the late Kathleen Ryan Peterson and her husband Robert Peterson, with whom she shared a lifetime of treasured memories.

Throughout her life, Mary gave herself fully and freely to others. Her home was never just a house — it was "Hotel Fancy" where friends, neighbors, and strangers alike were welcomed with a warm smile, a generous table, and a heart that never turned anyone away. She lived her faith not in words alone, but in every quiet act of kindness and every open door.

Mary was a devoted and active member of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in

Oak Ridge, where she served her parish community with joy and dedication. She proclaimed the Word of God as a Lector, brought the Eucharist to her fellow parishioners as a Eucharistic Minister, and willingly stepped forward to serve in whatever way was needed. Her presence at St. Thomas was a gift to all who worshipped alongside her, and her commitment to her faith was a constant and shining example to her community.

Mary's spirit of service extended beyond her parish to the wider community through her deeply devoted volunteer work with the Department for Persons with Disabilities (DPD), a Catholic Charities agency of the Diocese of Paterson. She gave her time, her energy, and her heart to those in her care, embodying the very mission of Christ to love and serve the most vulnerable among us. To those she served at DPD, she was not simply a volunteer — she was a compassionate presence, a steady hand, and a loving friend.

Mary dedicated her professional life to education, serving as a beloved teacher in West Milford, New Jersey, where her influence extended far beyond the classroom. She poured herself into her students with patience, encouragement, and genuine care, and the seeds she planted in the hearts and minds of the children of West Milford will continue to grow for generations to come.

Mary will always be remembered for her devotion to her fur-ever loves, Danny Boy and Finnegan. She leaves behind a wide circle of dear friends and cousins who loved her deeply and will miss her every single day.

Mary Ryan-Zanotti was a woman who gave everything and asked for nothing in return. In the words of Matthew 25, she fed the hungry, welcomed the stranger, and cared for those in need — and in doing so, she reflected the very heart of God.

She will be forever loved, forever missed, and forever remembered.

The visitation will take place on Thursday, July 23, 2026 from 3pm to 7pm at the Stickle-Soltesz Funeral Home, 187 La Rue Road, Newfoundland, NJ 07435.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be on Friday, July 24, 2026 at 10am at St. Thomas the Apostle RC Church, 5635 Berkshire Valley Road, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438.

Immediately following the funeral mass, Mary will be interred beside her husband at North Hardyston Cemetery on Route 94 in Hamburg, NJ (Hardyston Twp).07419

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in Mary's name to: Department for Persons with Disabilities, P.O. Box 2539, 1 Catholic Charities Way, Oak Ridge, NJ 07438. <https://www.ccpaterson.org/zanotti>

Upcoming Events

Visitation

JUL **23.** 3:00 PM - 7:00 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
<https://www.sticklesolteszfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

JUL **24.** 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

St. Thomas the Apostle RC Church
5635 Berkshire Valley Road
Oak Ridge, NJ 07438
(973) 208-0090

Interment

JUL **24.** 12:15 PM - 12:45 PM (ET)

North Hardyston Cemetery
Route 94
Hamburg (Hardyston Twp.), NJ 07419

Tribute Wall

LR

“ I became friendly with Mary through our roles shared over time in the teachers union. I admired her wit and her ability to think on her feet. But what I liked best about Mary was her humor. She could tell a story as good as any Irish woman could always leave you laughing.

Mary was easy to like. Rest in peace, Mary, and thank you for your service and dedication to the teachers and students of West Milford. I say your name Mary Ryan Zanotti so you will never be forgotten.

Laura Rooney - June 17 at 12:56 PM

TR

“ Thoughts about Mary, A dear friend of the family passed away. She welcomed all, suffered no fools and service was her calling. We called her a sister of the heart. During her teenage years she was at our house on Coon Den Road all summer. She changed my diapers; she cleaned up after dinner. Our Mom was Marge just like Mary's Mom, a steady loving stern presence. Our Marge was practical and witty and treated Mary and Kathleen as if they were her own. Mary served all those she met. She served her friends like they were royalty. She served the teachers union, with her quick wit and cunning she protected those who served the children. She was a storyteller; I don't know if I have any memories of my early childhood and the characters of our family that are my own original ideas. The stories she told crystallized the personalities that I remember. She loved deeply and forever, her devotion to Eugene, Pucci, and Kathleen, the way she nursed them and supported them was a testimony to that love. She served the DPD and through them our most vulnerable neighbors felt welcomed, supported and seen. She opened Hotel Fancy for all those who needed a calm place to stay, she enjoyed the company and I will miss sitting around that table listening to the old stories. She welcomed my husband, joked with him and made him feel welcome and loved. She made us all feel precious. She really listened to and celebrated all of us. She was fiercely loyal and blunt when needed. She wanted the best for each of us and wasn't afraid to call you up and suggest you open your eyes and make a plan. Those who spoke to her every day, who met her for dinner, who attended mass with her their loss will be deep and harsh. I worry about all of them.

I'd like to be that servant, that person who makes those around feel welcomed, seen and appreciated. I suppose everyone has their talents. I can offer my service, my talents, I can make the hard phone calls, I need to live up to that bar that she set so high. I need to live a fiercer more joyful life in her name. - Rest In Peace, Tricia McGranahan Garland

triciagarland - June 12 at 06:12 PM

JP

“*Mary Immaculata had a special knack for making sure all her students were treated respectfully and with kindness. She always had a genuine smile for each one of them. As an active member of the WMEA executive council for many years, she showed her exceptional skills while negotiating and mediating for her "peeps" (her word). Mary was always cool, calm and collected and fought for fair representation for all the members of the union. More than once I heard Mary refer to her family and friends as special treasures. --- Jean Pollard*

jean pollard - June 08 at 06:55 PM

FD

This describes her perfectly, Jean. Thank you. Faith

Faith Delaney - June 11 at 08:27 AM

TF

“*Mary was always a bright light and so kind. We shared many holidays together and it was always so special to be with her. Rest in peace. She will be missed.*

The Ramsey Feehans - June 06 at 04:54 PM