



Bernadette Marie Kowalski

March 22, 1945 - August 26, 2024

Bernadette "Bernie" Marie Kowalski has left behind a legacy of love and devotion that will forever be cherished in the hearts of those who knew her. On August 26, 2024, the world lost a remarkable soul born on March 22, 1945, in Hamden, Connecticut, a caring wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She endured a long four year battle with kidney disease and weekly trips to Dr's appointments and dialysis, but kept her smile and faith throughout it all. She was a faithful member of St. Francis de Sales Catholic Church. Bernie's life was dedicated to the meticulous care she provided as the owner and operator of the renowned Old Mill Crab House in Delmar, Delaware, that she and her beloved husband Bob opened in 1983 and worked tirelessly every summer day until retirement in 2007. Bob and Bernie moved to Delmar from Connecticut in 1973 and for several years she worked as a medical assistant to Dr. Weaver while helping Bob manage several restaurants and Family Game Rooms across Delmarva. Her life's passion was her family. Supporting her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren in their many school and community functions, she was a proud mom and Nana and was always their biggest cheerleader. She also loved spending time at the beach, family vacations and holidays, lighthouses and working in her flowers and shrubs. She found peace in watching the birds and especially loved to relax and watch the remarkable hummingbirds fight over the feeders. Her loving spirit will be deeply missed by her beloved family. She is survived by her husband of almost 58 years, Robert "Bob" J. Kowalski, her son Jeffrey

Kowalski and wife Shannon, and daughters Kristin Merritt and Jennifer Joseph and husband, Vance. Additionally, she is cherished by her dear grandchildren Allyson Geary (Evan), Mackenzie Wright (Tyler), Brandon Thompson (Rachel), Christopher Thompson, Noah Kowalski, Ryan Kowalski, Nathan VanZandt, and Sarah Merritt, and great grandchildren, Mallory and Hudson (and one on the way). She is also survived by many nieces, nephews and a host of close friends. Bernie's memory is also carried on by her sisters, Edith Johnson, and Margaret Andrews, with whom she shared countless memories and unbreakable bonds.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by siblings, Francis Lesocky and Judith Ciemer.

The celebration of Bernie's life will take place on Saturday, August 31, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at Short Funeral Home, Delmar, allowing friends and family to come together in remembrance and honor of her during the visitation from 9:00 to 11:00.

In honoring Bernie's life, let us take comfort in the shared memories we hold dear and the joy she brought to all around her. Memorial donations may be made in her memory to help children in need by visiting www.stjude.org.

Please visit www.shortfh.com to share online condolences and memories with Bernie's family.

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG **31**. 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 East Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525
info@shortfh.com

Celebration of Life

AUG **31**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Short Funeral Home
13 East Grove Street
Delmar, DE 19940
(302) 846-2525
info@shortfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Short Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Bernadette Marie Kowalski*



Short Funeral Home - August 31, 2024 at 04:26 PM

DG

“ *Debbie,Bobbie Jo and girls purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Bernadette Marie Kowalski.*



Debbie,Bobbie Jo and girls - August 30, 2024 at 03:35 PM

DT

“ *Dawn T. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernadette Marie Kowalski.*

Dawn T. - August 30, 2024 at 10:19 AM

CL

“ Dear Bob, Jeff, Krissy, Jenny and your entire family, We send sincere sympathy to you. God’s newest angel. What a kind, loving and sharing person. Bernie was a friend from the day we met. She always had “a minute and a smile!” Bernie will always be a lovely memory for me.
Sincerely Carol and Duck Lonegro

Carol Lonegro - August 29, 2024 at 10:35 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Bernadette Marie Kowalski.



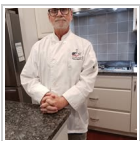
August 29, 2024 at 04:50 PM

FA

“ Fred and Marie Acquavita purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Bernadette Marie Kowalski.



Fred and Marie Acquavita - August 29, 2024 at 02:47 PM



“ Bernie was one great Lady! She was so good to me. My sincere sympathy and prayers to her family. Fr. C.

Charles Wiggins - August 29, 2024 at 07:27 AM

KG

“ Hello From Texas:

I was deeply saddened to hear about Bernie's passing. My thoughts are with you all and I wish you peace and strength during this transition.

Bernie is my aunt. I was born Kerry Bernadette Johnson...now Golden.

My mother Edith loved her sister Bernie so much that she wanted to endow the qualities she cherished by blessing me as her namesake and with the essence of her spirit.

Growing up in Texas and Arkansas, we rarely made it back East-- my only memory was one summer in the early 70's staying at my grandparent's farm in Delmar. Bernie was there -- so vibrant and fun loving. As a kid I looked up to her in awe and thought she was really cool and so pretty with her blonde pixie haircut.

To Bob, her husband, your children, grandchildren and her extended family and friends, please accept my deepest condolences. We all are truly blessed to have known and been loved by such an incredible being.

And to think of all the many people who were nourished by the food and good times at the crab restaurant—what a beautiful legacy she leaves behind. I cherish the memories of that summer with Bernie. I wish you all strength, comfort, and that your journey through life is enriched by every moment you shared with her.

K Golden

Keri Golden - August 28, 2024 at 08:01 PM

FP

“ Ally, Evan, Hudson and family- Your FOP Lodge#10 Brothers and Sisters are sending their deepest condolences on the heartbreaking loss of your beautiful Nana. We stand with you during this season of loss, grief and change. May you find comfort and strength in the smiles she gave you showed you and the joy you brought her. May her memory be a blessing to all she loved. In sympathy and respect, Delaware FOP Lodge#10

FOP Lodge#10, Delaware Probation - August 28, 2024 at 07:55 PM

CT

“ So sorry to hear about Bernie. She was a delightful person to be around. Always had a smile on her face. May God be with all of you through this difficult time. ❤️💎💎💎💎📖

Christine Trader - August 28, 2024 at 06:07 PM

LC

“ Jenny and Nathan, so sorry to hear about your mom and grandmother. Prayers for your family.
Lisa Culver

lisa Culver - August 28, 2024 at 12:51 PM

MH

“ Meg Lesocky, Paul Lesocky, Lisa Hall purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Bernadette Marie Kowalski.



Meg Lesocky, Paul Lesocky, Lisa Hall - August 28, 2024 at 12:38 PM

MH

“ Meg Lesocky, Paul Lesocky, Lisa Hall planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernadette Marie Kowalski.

Meg Lesocky, Paul Lesocky, Lisa Hall - August 28, 2024 at 12:38 PM

DJ

“ David J. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Bernadette Marie Kowalski.

David J. - August 28, 2024 at 10:39 AM

DJ

“ David J. purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Bernadette Marie Kowalski.



David J. - August 28, 2024 at 10:39 AM

RJ

“ My late husband, Melvin Joseph, and I adored Bernie. She always had a smile on her face with kind words for everyone. We will miss Bernie but her memory will live on forever. As always,
Ruthi Adams Joseph

Ruthi Adams Joseph - August 27, 2024 at 09:16 PM

EF

“ *Edith L. Johnson and Family purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Bernadette Marie Kowalski.*



Edith L. Johnson and Family - August 27, 2024 at 08:01 PM

WF

“ *With Love, The Pizzoferrato Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Bernadette Marie Kowalski.*



With Love, The Pizzoferrato Family - August 27, 2024 at 07:59 PM