



## Carol (Soucie) Watelet

March 17, 1939 - April 20, 2024

Carol (Virginia) Soucie Butler Watelet, 85, passed away suddenly and peacefully on April 20, 2024, joining the love of her life, Mr. Wonderful, Robert Watelet who passed away 2 years earlier. Carol was born on March 17, 1939, in Gardner to the late Richard and Wanita Soucie. She was also predeceased by her brothers Larry Soucie, Donald Soucie, half-sister, Kay, and Carol's first husband, Arlan Butler, father of her 2 daughters, Kim Rushford, Penny Morrison and her husband Levaungh Morrison. Carol leaves behind her brother Doug Soucie & wife Debbie, 7 grandchildren, Crystal & (Brent) Benning, Jason & (Kristen) Rushford, Travis Rushford & (Erin), Jeffrey Manheim, Melissa & (Robert) Curtin, Joshua Manheim & (Andrea), Matthew Manheim & (Becky), 5 great-grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren, stepchildren, Steven Watelet, Craig Watelet & Sally Watelet, and many nieces & nephews.

Carol was married on her 17th birthday & moved to Germany with her first husband, where daughter Kim was born. After 2 years, she came back to the US & resided in New Salem, after having her second daughter, Penny, as soon as the girls were old enough to dance, she started her own local dance studio. After much success, she relocated her studio to Northampton (Carol Butler's School of Dance) where she was a well-known dance teacher who has taught thousands of students over her lifetime. Several of her students went on to dance or teach professionally around the world. Carol served as

National president of many dance organizations. She bravely took large groups of her students to NY city for weeklong national conventions to study with professional instructors from all over the country, see Broadway shows and to Lincoln Center ballet at every opportunity and many dance competitions. Her motto was "never say can't, always say I'll try". Carol closed her studio after 30 years and continued teaching part time for her daughter Penny who owned New England Dance Quarters.

In her senior years, she continued tapping her feet teaching tap dance classes to the seniors at the Senior Center in Northampton.

Her second love was her church family at College Church where her and Bob served for over 30 years hosting bible studies in their home. Carol was involved in the woman's ministry, hospitality, children's summer camp, church picnics. She was member of the choir and would serve at any opportunity presented.

As Carol never liked the limelight, her wishes were to have no memorial services, which will be respected by her loving daughters. DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME OF NORTHAMPTON has been entrusted to handling all her arrangements.

For more information or to leave the family a personal condolence, please visit [Drozdalfuneralhome.com](http://Drozdalfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

DN

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



David Nurenberg - May 03, 2024 at 11:28 AM

DN

*Carol's dance studio, and the acting/musical comedy class I took there for years, was such a formative part of my life at that stage. I was never a "sports kid" -- this was my chance to grow and be active and social with peers outside of school, and it was marvelous fun. She really built an institution that made a difference for many, many kids.*

David Nurenberg - May 03, 2024 at 11:30 AM

PE

*Thank you for such kind words. She really did make a difference in so many lives.*

Penny - May 07, 2024 at 12:15 PM

CR

“ *Carol was a very special person who shared her love of dancing to many young people and gave them the guidance and confidence to succeed. She was so loved by all in the family and will be missed by not forgotten.*

Clay Rushford - April 25, 2024 at 07:22 AM

PE

*Thank you so very much. She always thought very highly of you.*

Penny - May 07, 2024 at 12:13 PM



“ Like many of you, Carol has and will always hold a special place in my heart. She made an enormous contribution in my personal development and yes, I often reminded my own children that there's no such word as can't, you must try! My sincere condolences to her family.

Denise Diminuco - April 24, 2024 at 03:56 PM

PE

Thank you so much for the kind words.

Penny - May 07, 2024 at 12:14 PM

DP

“ Carol was so kind and made a lasting impression on my girls. Their lifelong love of dance was directly influenced by Carol's instruction and the expertise of the instructors she hired. I will look back on her legacy with much fondness.

Diane Potter - April 23, 2024 at 07:59 PM

DS

Kim and Penny, I am so sorry to hear of your Mom's passing. Carol was a wonderful woman and a great teacher . Please accept deepest sympathies from Daphne (Burdo), Lisa (Seymour) and myself. May she rest in peace.

Donna Slocombe - April 24, 2024 at 11:57 AM

LC

Penny, We are so sorry to hear of the loss of your Mother. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.  
Bob and Lori Carver

Lori Carver - April 24, 2024 at 01:21 PM

DJ

*So many wonderful memories watching this dear lady teach our Granddaughters, Karen and Amy Benedetto to dance. She always allowed us to watch through the window each time we came for a visit.  
Thank you*

*Mrs. W! You are so <3'd by so many. Rest in Peace...Amen!*

---

**Donnetta Jamison** - April 24, 2024 at 08:41 PM

PE

*Thank you all for the thoughtfulness. It's comforting to hear all these wonderful memories.*

---

**Penny** - May 07, 2024 at 12:16 PM