



Irene M. Newell

September 24, 1926 - January 2, 2022

Irene M. Newell, 95, passed away peacefully on Sunday, January 2, 2022, at Linda Manor Nursing Home with family at her side to say goodbye. She was born on September 24, 1926, at the family farm in Bradstreet, Hatfield, and was the youngest of four children to the late Teofil and Mary (Sokol) Harubin.

She graduated from Smith Academy, Hatfield, MA (class of 1943) and then completed two years of study at the former Northampton Commercial College. She married Raymond D. Newell Jr. in 1947

During the 1940s, Irene worked as an operator at the Northampton Telephone Exchange (in the good old days of “number please?”). Later, she assisted her husband who owned and operated the Newell Funeral Home and Newell’s Ambulance Service. In later years she and Raymond purchased and operated the LaMontagne Hardware Store in Florence, from which they retired in 1986.

Irene grew up in a farm family, helping her parents, sister and brothers manage acres of vegetables and tobacco. She played the accordion and in later years became a masterful basket weaver. She was an avid birdwatcher, and an active and loving great grandmother to Jackson and Alys.

She is survived by her son David D. Newell and his wife Virginia, both of Ashfield, MA, and by her grandson Jared D. Newell and his wife Caitlin, both

of Bennington, VT (together with their children Jackson D. Newell (ae. 5) and Alys C. Newell (ae.3) whom Irene loved and adored). Irene is also survived by her brother Walter Harubin of Whately, MA., and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her parents, Irene was predeceased by her husband Raymond D. Newell Jr. (1998), and by her son Gordon G. Newell (2021), as well as her sister Helen and brother Rupert.

A private family service will be held at the Spring Grove Cemetery in Florence. DROZDAL FUNERAL HOME of Northampton has been entrusted with her services. Donations in Irene's memory may be made to Cooley Dickinson VNA & Hospice, 168 Industrial Dr., Northampton, MA 01060.

For more information, or to leave the family a personal condolence, please visit Drozdalfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

JG

“ I only recently learned of Irene’s passing and it saddens me deeply. Irene has been a dearly loved customer of our farm stand for many years. When my husband and I moved into our new home Irene wove us an ‘onion’ basket as a housewarming gift. When she visited the stand we would spend time visiting and catching up. I was concerned when she noted that she had not been by due to a fall. She assured me she was getting along okay. I shall miss Irene and her visits. Bless her heart. May warm memories comfort you. I know I will cherish mine. Jan Golonka

Jan Golonka - January 24, 2022 at 10:21 AM

DB

“ David, Our families have been friends for over 75 years, from their weddings, to their children, to our growing up, to our adulthood, to their retirement, to their passing. Our parents jointly watched over us and kept each other posted on our activities, so they were aware even when they were not present at St John's in our youth. Your mother was my sister's Godmother. Giving Margaret a puppy for her confirmation. Your dad drove her to her wedding in his wonderful car, which made the day even more special. They helped out with funerals and later repairs to our homes. Your mother watched over us and stayed in touch through out our lives and after our mother passed. She often visited Margaret after her stroke and was always happy to help out. I often called her if I did not see her at the grocery store to check in. If I missed her she would call back when it was a better time for her. I will miss her motherly guidance, smiling face.and willingness to be helpful.

David Brown - January 07, 2022 at 09:32 PM

SS

“ David,

I'm so sorry for the turmoil and change in your family that has occurred this year. Whoever knew this would be the year we both lost those strong women in our lives? Of course, at 92 and 95, we should have expected it. Mom and Irene were each other's sounding boards and good friends until nearly the end of both their lives. I'm glad they had each other. My condolences to you and your family.

Sue Carpenter Stone

Sue Stone - January 07, 2022 at 09:15 AM