



Mrs. Kathleen Ann Walsh Burlin

July 21, 1949 - July 25, 2022

Kathleen Walsh Burlin, 73, born Kathleen Ann Walsh, passed away on July 25th, 2022 with her family at her side. “Kate” was a beloved wife to David for 52 years, mother to Matthew (Kate) and Michael (Naomi) and grandmother to Ozzie and Iris. Her faith and love for family guided her life. She will be remembered for her generosity, her glamor and her sense of humor which endured until the end.

Kate was predeceased by her parents, Daniel Walsh Jr. and Rita Walsh (née Brown). In addition to her immediate family, she is survived by her siblings Mary Rita (Ray) Heaney, Joan (Tom) McQueen, Jeanne (Gordon) Heyworth, Michael Walsh, Patricia Walsh and Daniel (Susan) Walsh. She is also survived by Pinky, her beloved Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

Kate was a devout Catholic. She attended mass weekly, most recently as a member of St. John the Apostle parish in Virginia Beach. She was keen to share her faith with others and encouraged fellow Catholics and loved ones to find and maintain their connection with God, often recounting miracles she perceived in everyday life. Her faith eventually guided her to teach special needs children while living in California and to serve as Development Director for St. Matthew’s Catholic School in Virginia Beach. She was also a lifelong patron of the Order of Saint Clare, or the Poor Clares.

Kate loved her family and steadfastly put their needs before her own. She was a dedicated wife of David whom she married in 1970. In their early years, Kate was an exemplary Navy spouse who ran the family while David was away on deployment. She relocated with Dave multiple times as his orders changed, helping establish a robust social life for her family within their adopted Navy communities, whether in Pensacola, FL, Meridian, MS, Virginia Beach, VA or China Lake, CA. Kate continued to be the backbone of the family in civilian life, running the household, raising their two sons and supporting Dave's new career while establishing her own as a small business owner. Most recently, Kate was the caregiver for her husband as he overcame illness. Kate never left Dave's side throughout his recovery over the last four and a half years. She often spent multiple days with him in the hospital and drove him to and from treatment in Baltimore.

Kate was a proud and dedicated mother to her two sons Matthew and Michael, whom she called her Angel Boys #1 and #2. She pushed them to be ambitious and never to settle. She made their lives special by celebrating birthdays, graduations and weddings +in her own uniquely elegant style. She was a constant and loving presence in their lives through regular visits, calls and messages despite often living apart geographically. She is a key reason her sons remain so close to each other despite being eleven years apart. She instilled a love of nature (notably the beach), beauty, humor and gentle living that they will carry on for the rest of their lives. Kate extended her motherly dedication when she became a grandmother; she deeply loved and doted upon her grandchildren and they brought her infinite delight.

Kate was a caring daughter, sister and aunt. She was devoted to her parents and stayed connected with them through countless trips to Rockville, MD in their later years. She strived to always be there for her two brothers and four sisters in times of need or simply a quick visit to the slot machines for some harmless fun. Kate cherished her fifteen nieces and nephews, making sure

they knew they could confide in her and always willing to lend a helping hand or advice as they started their own families.

Kate adored animals and loved pets throughout her life. She cared for many cats in her home, starting with Franny and Zooey, Beau, Violet and then Minnie. Most recently she adopted her Cavalier King Charles Spaniel named Pinky, with whom she shared a special bond. Pinky was always by Kate's side, joining her on frequent trips.

Kate surrounded herself and her family with beauty through her artistic talent and superb taste. Each year, she brought her magnificent flower garden to life through bursting color and creativity, even showcasing it in neighborhood garden shows. She designed exquisite and memorable floral arrangements and table centerpieces for family and friend's weddings and life events which always received compliments and admiration. She created her own decorative wreath business which saw her designs adorn homes throughout the Tidewater area. Whether through gardening, floral arranging, party planning, and interior decorating, Kate had artistic vision and managed a style all her own.

Kate was an exemplary host who went out of her way to make others feel welcomed and special. Her calendar year revolved around holidays, with decorations, treats and gifts; her celebrations brought family and friends together around great food, festive accouterments and often a traditional Irish toast. One of her favorite places to host friends and family was Rehoboth Beach, DE where she spent her summers as a child and later owned a second home. Over the years, Kate created countless memories through elaborate dinners, including her favorite crab feasts, and delightful days at the beach.

Above all, Kate loved life. Alongside her passion for faith, family and festivity, she also had a wonderful sense of humor and could find a laugh anywhere, even at her own expense. We think she knew that, even in her final hours, when she advised her sons, husband and all of us to:

“Live your life, and make it fabulous!”

A Memorial Funeral Mass for Kathleen will take place at 2pm on Thursday, September 29th, at St. John the Apostle Catholic Church, 1968 Sandbridge Rd, Va. Beach. All are welcomed. Details regarding Kathleen’s interment will be shared at a later date.

Donations may be made to Catholic Charities USA, the Humane Society or your local SPCA.