



## Susan G. "Sue" Garrett

October 26, 2024

Susan G. Garrett "Sue", passed away peacefully on Saturday, October 26, 2024 at the Glen at Willow Valley at the age of eighty-four; before her illness, she had been a resident of the Vistas at Willow Valley. All of her family were with her in her final days. She was a strong force in all of our lives, and we will miss her greatly.

Born in Rochester NY, Sue was the daughter of the late Raymond E. and Dorothea "Dottie" Golemb. Raised in Rochester, she attended the Allendale Columbia School. After graduating from high school, she began college at Wells College in Aurora, NY. While at Wells, she met her late husband of 41 years, Roger L. Garrett, who attended nearby Cornell University. During their friendship and eventual courtship, Sue also pursued college coursework at the University of Virginia and Hunter College in NY. Before completing her degree, she married Roger and became a mother to three girls. She left college and devoted herself to being a stay-at-home mom and raising her daughters. After her youngest began school, she completed her undergraduate degree at George Mason University. A lifelong learner, she then decided to pursue first a master's degree in Special Education (also at George Mason) and later a second master's degree in Social Work (at Virginia Commonwealth University) and became a licensed clinical social worker. While continuing to raise her family, she worked as a Special Education teacher in the Fairfax County school district and, after receiving her LCSW, she had a private therapy

practice in Old Town Alexandria.

Sue and Roger settled in Alexandria where they lived for many years until his death. During their childhood and beyond, Sue was a staunch advocate for her girls, and raised them by example to be strong, independent women. As a homemaker, Sue was a consummate hostess, and whether it was a family holiday, or a social gathering, she entertained with attention to every detail. She had exquisite taste in all things and was a champion shopper. She was equally at home in high-end stores as well as her beloved T. J. Maxx. Shopping trips with her girls were epic. Her classic taste was also evident in her personal style. She was always impeccably dressed and brought her signature style to everything she touched. She created beautiful home spaces with carefully chosen items that are still cherished by the family.

She was an intelligent and informed person. Until her battle with dementia, she religiously watched the PBS News Hour nightly and read the paper daily (first the Washington Post, and later the New York Times). A lifelong Democrat, she was passionate about social justice and mental health issues and championed the causes of the underserved and less fortunate. She gave generously to these causes. She also gave of her time and expertise. After Roger's death, she retired from her private practice in Virginia and moved to the main line area of Pennsylvania. While in West Chester, and later Malvern, she volunteered as a therapist for the Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM). Before her challenges with dementia, she also volunteered for a short time at the Glen where she later became a resident.

Sue had a beautiful smile and loved to laugh. Her sense of humor was sharp and witty, and often irreverent. Even in her decline, she retained her spark and sense of humor. Sue was an amazing wife, mother, grandmother and a true force to be reckoned with. Her stamp is indelible, and we feel her loss deeply. We are so thankful to the amazing staff and caregivers at the Glen at Willow

Valley for their care and love of Sue over these past years. The devotion and dignity with which they cared for Sue was beyond remarkable and we are humbly grateful.

Sue is survived by her three girls: Julia Vanasse (Michael) of Lancaster, PA; Elizabeth Sokoloff (Andrew) of Brunswick, ME; and Jennifer Basile (Sam) of Howard Beach, NY. She is also survived by four grandchildren: Anne Bijman; Benjamin Vanasse; Elizabeth Vanasse and Lyle Sokoloff. She was preceded in death by her parents and brother as well as her husband of 41 years, Roger L. Garrett.

A Celebration of Life service will be held in the Johnson Auditorium in the North building at Willow Valley, 600 Willow Valley Square, Lancaster, PA 17602, on November 23, 2024 and all are welcome; the family will be there to greet guests beginning at 1:30 PM, with the tribute starting at approximately 2:30 PM. There will also be time to greet the family following the tribute.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating in her honor to one of the local PA causes that Sue supported. Donations in her honor can be made to Community Volunteers in Medicine in West Chester, PA (CVIM.org) or the Schrieber Center for Pediatric Development in Lancaster, PA (Schrieber pediatric.org)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

NOV **23**. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Johnson Auditorium Manor North - Willow Valley  
600 Willow Valley Square  
Lancaster, PA

## Celebration of Life

NOV **23**. 2:30 PM (ET)

Johnson Auditorium Manor North - Willow Valley  
600 Willow Valley Square  
Lancaster, PA

# Tribute Wall



“ *The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Susan G. "Sue" Garrett*



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**The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc** - November 15, 2024 at 04:28 PM



“ *Cynthia, Elizabeth & Margaret Garrett purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Susan G. "Sue" Garrett.*



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**Cynthia, Elizabeth & Margaret Garrett** - November 20, 2024 at 05:31 PM



“ 60 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



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**The Groffs Family Funeral and Cremation Services Inc** - November 13, 2024 at 01:31 PM

KW

“ *Sue and I became friends when I began caring for and walking her beloved little dog Toto. Eventually I also became her caregiver. It was the beginning of the COVID pandemic and a challenging time. We spent a lot of time talking, going back and forth to doctors appointments, and to hospital visits. She continued her love of shopping online with my help. We also shared a love of sushi from the local Wasabi restaurant. Toto loved to swim. Sue, I, and Toto would drive to a local pond where Sue could watch him swim. When it was time, I also found a loving home for Toto. I so appreciated the time we spent together.*



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**Kathy Walker-Graves** - November 12, 2024 at 12:50 PM

VF

“ I had the pleasure of getting to know Sue when she lived at Hershey’s Mill in West Chester, Pa and volunteered at CVIM. We were grateful for her expertise and I so enjoyed getting to know her. My sincere condolences to her family at this sad time.  
Virginia Fanfera

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**Virginia Fanfera** - November 10, 2024 at 05:04 PM

LL

“ Julie, Buffy and Jenny, and your entire families, Tony and I send our deepest condolences.

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**Loraine Liuzzo** - November 05, 2024 at 10:26 AM

BH

“ Sue and I were best friends for many years( in addition being sisters-in-law). We had many trips together and tons of laughs. We shared our professional lives and that was significant. But most of all we could have very serious moments and conversations. She was my “go to” for many years. I miss those days.

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**Bonnie Hancock** - November 04, 2024 at 07:10 PM