



Joan Leslie Rice

February 23, 1945 - January 30, 2025

Joan L. Rice, 79, of Springfield, MA, passed away at home on January 30, 2025. She was a wonderful aunt and always was there for her family. Joan was a lover of all animals and cared for the cats in her neighborhood. She is survived by her nephew Kevin Labbe and his fiancée Annie Driscoll of East Longmeadow, her niece Ellen Horne and her husband James of Ludlow, MA and her great-niece Heather Horne. She was predeceased by her two brothers: George Rice and Bob Rice and her sister Kathy Labbe. New England Funeral & Cremation Center, 25 Mill Street, Springfield, MA has been entrusted with the arrangements. Please visit Joan's memorial page at www.nefcc.net for expressions of sympathy.

Tribute Wall

EP

“ My family moved to Fairfield Street in 1954, and was a good friend of Joan's thru our school years. My husband's family moved to the street in 1955, knew Joan, and was a friend to George. We also remember Mr. & Mrs. Rice and Kathy. The family always had cats, and it was very exciting when kittens were born. Joan taught me a few pieces on the piano when she was taking lessons. Dave and I would occasionally see her in Big Y in East Longmeadow. Our thoughts are with you. Eileen (McCormack) Pratt & David Pratt

Eileen Pratt - February 05, 2025 at 12:39 PM

EH

Thank you!

Ellen Horne - February 05, 2025 at 05:58 PM

AL

“ My family lived next door to Joan for many years. Joan used to have like 20 Siamese cats that sounded like they could talk. It was pretty freaky when i was 6. We where a big family with 10 kids, so Joan had to put up with a lot of horseplay! I would like to extend my condolences to her family from all of us LaPorte's!

Alan Laporte - February 05, 2025 at 12:04 PM

EH

She loved having your family as neighbors

Ellen Horne - February 05, 2025 at 06:01 PM