



Susan Panella, of Townsend

October 11, 1950 - December 15, 2024

Townsend - Susan (Aniszewski) Panella, 74, a beloved wife, mother, teacher, and friend, died peacefully on Sunday morning, December 15, 2024 in her family home after a multi-year long battle with Multiple System Atrophy, a rare variant of Parkinson's Disease. Sue was born on October 11, 1950 in Webster, MA, the daughter of Bernard and Edna Aniszewski of Dudley, MA. She was married shortly after her graduation from Emmanuel College and her earliest teaching experiences were as a nursery school and preschool teacher. Sue suspended her career in order to be at home with her three children, returning some years later to work as a special education teacher for over twenty years at the Squannacook and Spaulding Memorial elementary schools in Townsend, earning a Master's Degree from Rivier College along the way, graduating summa cum laude.

Sue will be remembered as a devoted wife and an amazingly nurturing mother, possessing an unwavering and fierce love for her children and grandchildren. She was an avid reader and a terrific cook, making a pierogi that did her Polish heritage proud. She also had the uncanny ability to fall asleep during the most dramatic and loudest of movies. Remarkable. She reveled in the outdoors and loved the water.

She loved music and was accomplished at the piano. Her prodigious ability as a caregiver allowed her to have a profound impact on the lives of her

hundreds of students and their families. She was the kindest and most gentle of souls, with an almost logic-defying innocence, and her smile went on for days. She was totally selfless, somehow managing to always find the good in people. She had the great gift of making you feel better about yourself no matter the circumstance. Sue was a beautiful light in a world which can hardly afford to lose any.

Susan is survived by John, her husband of 52 years, her son Jason and his wife Sarah of Hollis NH, her son Matthew of Londonderry NH, her daughter Karen and her husband Brendan of Groveland, her brother Bill and his wife Jean of Webster, her sister Jean of Dudley, and her three grandchildren, Jack, Kate, and Ridley.

A gathering in celebration of her life will be planned.

A GoFundMe page has been set up in Sue's name with all funds raised going to the Multiple System Atrophy United Research Consortium. In lieu of flowers, we would ask people to make a donation of any size to this fund: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/in-loving-memory-of-susan-panella-fund-research-for-msa>

Tribute Wall

SM

“ A beautiful tribute that captures how Sue made you feel and the love she had for her family. Sue was kind, an amazing listener with an infectious laugh and smile. We love you Sue and your memory will live on in the many lives you touched. We love you Panella’s; Ann and Scott McCarthy

Scott McCarthy - December 17, 2024 at 09:03 PM

HI

Sue was an amazing special education teacher and person. She cared about all of her students and their progress. I loved working with her. I am so very sorry for your loss.
Hilary Nolin

Hilary - December 18, 2024 at 05:24 AM

LP

I enjoyed working with Sue. She was always a positive influence on the staff and her students. I loved her smile. So Sorry to hear of her passing.
Laureen Pulford

Laureen Pulford - December 18, 2024 at 10:38 AM

AR

Sue inspired students and co-workers alike with her gentle spirit, dedication and positive outlook. Her smile and laugh were contagious and I will always remember her that way. May her memory give you strength during this very sad time.

Allison Read - December 18, 2024 at 02:35 PM

TO

Became friends with Sue and John in 68. So happy to read these comments.

Tom - June 05, 2025 at 02:08 AM