

## Obituary

**Born:** Thursday, March 11, 1926

**Died:** Monday, January 14, 2019

Anna (Nancy) Elsie Bader O'Grady was born on March 11, 1926 in Hartford, CT.

Though she was raised in foster homes she had many happy memories of growing up in Hartford where she often visited the Wadsworth Atheneum and was allowed to wander freely and play in the lobby of the Hartford Courthouse, pretending the grand staircase was part of a castle where she lived.

As an adult, she was employed for a time at Travelers Insurance in Hartford and also worked at the ticket booth of a downtown movie theater. It was there at the age of twenty-three that she met her future husband, William J. (Jerry) O'Grady, Sr. Within the year she gave birth to Nancy Ruth, the first of their four children. Eventually they would welcome Colleen, Bill, Jr and Tom.

Nancy was a fiercely protective and proud mother. She read aloud to her children and instilled in them the love of books that had been her own escape from an early age. She had high expectations for academic performance and despite constant financial concerns she instilled pride of family and achievement. She raised and kept a close-knit family unit that now extends to multiple generations.

Her happiest years were working in the service of the Catholic Church, especially at Corpus Christi Parish, as it was then called, in Housatonic, MA. Together with the pastor, Rev. Anthony Jutt, she created a warm and welcoming church community where both visitors and regulars were greeted at the door with a hug. She made it a point to be at virtually every Mass to connect with each parishioner. She worked tirelessly on the yearly bazaar and forged friendships that continued for the rest of her life, more than twenty years after her retirement and move from the area. Especially dear to her were the Mercer family, who adopted her as their own, and special friends Margaret, Katie, Bev and Ed, with whom she still met monthly for breakfast.

Once in Southampton she made a new cadre of devoted friends all of whom knew her as Nana. She had a regular group that met every Friday night at Opa Opa until it's recent closing. Whenever she arrived she would be greeted with a chorus of "Nana's here! Nana's here!" Once she started her decline, loyal and loving friends like Aaron (a Godsend in this final weeks), Tony and Dorie, from Southampton Meadows, where she lived, provided reliable and much needed help. Elsewhere in town friends like Tara and Kendra were always there for her and treated her as if she were a part of their own families.

Her longtime and trusted physician, Dr Eric Bush of Great Barrington was a great source of support, both medically and emotionally through all the decades of their friendship. Mary Russell was her oldest friend, and along with Peggy Hogan, who had known her from the age of six, functioned more like two additional daughters.

She was predeceased by her husband, Jerry, and leaves behind their four loving children, Nancy Williams, Esq and husband, Lyell, Colleen Martin, Esq and husband, John, the Honorable William J. O'Grady, Jr and wife, Cheryl Parker, and Thomas O'Grady, Esq and wife, Donna. She is survived by twelve grandchildren, Joell (wife, Mandy), Michael, Shelby, Nancy, Ryan (wife, Julie), JD (wife, Cynthia), Meg (husband, Carl), Sean, Adam, Dan, Connor and Jaclyn. She also leaves eight great-

grandchildren, Lydia, Thomas, Logan, Kollton, Nolan, Lorelai, Claire and Kevin and her much-loved dog and loyal companion, Molly. The Calling hours will be Monday Jan 21 at Mitchell Funeral Home 15 Park Street Easthampton from 4 to 7 pm. Services for family and friends will be Tuesday Jan 22 at 11am at Summit View Meeting House 555 Northampton St Holyoke. Burial will be at the convenience of the family The family has requested in lieu of flowers, Donations in Anna's memory may be made to St Judes Children Hospital or Shriner's

Hospital for Children

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## **Service Summary**

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### **Visitation**

4:00 PM to 7:00 PM, Mon Jan 21, 2019

### **Mitchell Funeral Home**

15 Park Street  
Easthampton, MA 01027

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### **Memorial Service**

11:00 AM Tue Jan 22, 2019

### **The Summit View**

555 Northampton st  
Holyoke, Ma 01040