



## John S Connolly

October 17, 2022

John S. Connolly, of Cresskill, after 93 years joined his beloved wife Betty on October 17, 2022. He leaves behind a large and loving family --

-- his eight children (and in-laws), Chris, Tom (Susan), Mary (Barney), Joe who is missed these past twelve years (Liz), Billy, Kevin (Sue), Diane (Tim) and Tracy

-- his fifteen grandchildren (and in-laws), Rory (Heather), Thomas, Alyssa (Angelo), Tim, Liz (Mike), Brianna (Seth), Brigid (Max), Sean, Zach, Tyler, Caileen, Emma, Sammy, Kristina and Chloe

-- his eight great-grandchildren, Talia, Evelyn, Leo, Kieran, Ariella, Frankie, Alaska and Luke

-- his two sisters Gretta and Anne in England

Dad was an Irish country lad from Tullyduff, County Mayo who left a beautiful but harsh land in 1949 for the streets of New York City, where he rode for 25 years as a bus driver. One magical 1950s night at a Manhattan dance club, he met the Galway girl he fell for at first sight (tho Mom took some time to be won!) and shared nearly 66 years of wedded life. (Their sense of swing continued to delight at wedding festivities in decades to come.) Dad and Mom faced the challenges of raising a brood of oft-rambunctious children at 91 Madison in Cresskill in the topsy-turvy Sixties and Seventies, and these times tested Dad's famed Connolly temper (albeit tempered with love). But our parents persevered and kept the faith, and Dad was to be rewarded with many joys over the years: "What your hands provide you will enjoy; you will be happy and prosper: Like a fruitful vine your wife within your home, Like olive plants your children around your table" (Psalm 128). Ever the worker not the talker, Dad had two post-retirement careers as custodian at Sacred Heart in Haworth and a golf club starter. From the frugal camping and beach house vacations of early days, Dad and Mom savored the shores of Cocoa Beach during their later life, and Dad kept making his tee shots through his 90th year. Memorably, at two generations of holiday feasts, Dad was the master carver and purveyor of his trademark whiskey sours. Not the least of Dad's happiness was to "live to see your children's children." It was wonderful to experience Dad's obvious joy in his relationships with the many grandchildren (and great-grands) he so loved.

Mom's departure in May 2020 left an unfillable void, but Dad kept at the outside chores, leaf-blowing while seated in his chair, until infirmity laid him low the last few months. Throughout this period, his daughter Mary was a devoted caregiver to whom we can never be thankful enough for making it possible for Dad to stay at home until the end. Dad didn't make it to the Thanksgiving dinner he was planning for his family, but all of us are united in raising a glass to give thanks for the countless blessings his good life provided.

Visitation at Barrett Leber Funeral Home, 148 Dean Dr., Tenafly on Thursday, October 20, 2022 from 4-8 PM. Funeral Mass Friday, October 21, 2022 at 10 AM at St. Therese Church, Cresskill. Interment to follow at Maryrest Cemetery, Mahwah. In lieu of flowers, donations in John's memory can be made to the Carmelite Missions, 55 W. Demarest Avenue, Englewood NJ 07631 and to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 50, Memphis TN 38101-9929.

# Cemetery Details

## Maryrest Cemetery

770 Darlington Ave  
Mahwah, NJ 07430

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **20**. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home  
148 Dean Dr  
Tenafly, NJ 07670  
(201) 568-8043  
<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral Mass

OCT **21**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Therese of Lisieux Church  
120 Monroe Ave  
Cresskill, NJ 07626-1405  
(201) 567-2528

# Tribute Wall

SN

“ So sorry to all my cousins and there familys on the death of my uncle John thinking of ye all at this sad time Mary(Henry)Hugh Flanagan +family clonbur Galway Ireland

Snead - October 23, 2022 at 02:57 PM

AT

“ Our deepest sympathies to Chris, Tom, Mary, Billy, Kevin, Diane, and Tracy on the death of Uncle John, we are thinking of you all.

Ann and all the Henrys



Ann Tierney - October 20, 2022 at 04:19 PM

MA

“ Tom, I am very sorry for your loss. I know how important family is to you. I know how deeply you love your family. Sorrow is the price that we pay for all the joy we receive in love. Your father remains in you and your family. I pray for your peace and comfort as you all share the wonderful memories that you lived together. In faith I trust that your father remains in LOVE that created him and all things.  
mike adriance

Michael Adriance - October 20, 2022 at 08:39 AM

SA

“ Tom, my deepest condolences to you and your family. I enjoyed meeting your dad a few months ago on FaceTime. He was absolutely adorable. May he Rest in Peace.

Sandra Afonso

Sandra Afonso - October 19, 2022 at 11:41 AM

ND

“ Tom, my heartfelt condolences on the loss of your father. May the good memories bring you and your family much comfort. .

Nancy Dargis

Nancy Dargis - October 19, 2022 at 11:21 AM

SJ

“ Tom, sorry to hear of your loss..!! Wishing you and your entire family my deepest condolences and sympathy during this sad time...

Steve Jocks - October 19, 2022 at 06:49 AM



So sad to hear uncle John,s death my condolences to you all Bernie McFarlane and the lads from Kilkenny Ireland 🙏💕🙏

Bernie Mcfarlane - October 19, 2022 at 09:51 AM

RH

Dear Christopher and family,  
We were so sorry to hear your sad news about uncle John.  
Our mother was very fond of her brother and had many happy memories of their childhood together.  
Sending heartfelt condolences to you and your family at this difficult time.  
On behalf of our mother, Greta Flanagan and family.

Roslyn Hards - November 05, 2022 at 06:22 AM



“ Our sympathy to all the Connolly family on John death.  
Aidan & Rita Connolly Tullyduff Kilmaine

Aidan Connolly - October 18, 2022 at 12:59 PM

SB

Condolences to the Connolly family from the Buckey's. Your Dad was awesome.

Shawn Buckey - October 20, 2022 at 05:53 PM

BH

“ May he rest in peace as he rejoins Mom and Joey in heaven. My prayers are with you all. Bob Hasenstab

Bob Hasenstab - October 18, 2022 at 09:15 AM



Condolences to all the family so sad to hear of uncle John passing away my prayers are with you all Bernie McFarlane and family 🙏💕🙏

Bernie Mcfarlane - October 18, 2022 at 12:55 PM

JA

Tom - my deepest sympathies to you and the family of your father passing.

John Araneo

john a araneo - October 19, 2022 at 11:43 AM

BH

“ 1 file added to the album *Connolly Family*



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**Barrett Leber Funeral Home** - October 17, 2022 at 01:27 PM

JA

*Tom,  
Sorry to hear the sad news. My condolences and prayers. May his soul Rest In Peace.  
Jaison G. Alex*

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**Jaison G. Alex** - October 19, 2022 at 11:46 AM

EM

*Tom:  
Sorry for your loss. May he rest in peace*

*Gene Murphy*

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**Eugene Murphy** - October 19, 2022 at 02:08 PM