



Maureen A. Leonardo

August 7, 1949 - October 17, 2025

On October 17, 2025, Maureen A. "Rusti" Leonardo of Hamden, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by her loving family. Maureen was born in New Haven on August 7, 1949. She was the daughter of the late Joseph and Alice Burke Shields. Prior to her retirement, she worked as a legal secretary. Maureen had a fighting Irish spirit and loved her family fiercely. She loved to spend summer vacations at her happy place - Sebago Lake in Maine - especially during her birthday week. It was a week spent with her family swimming in the lake, jet skiing, tubing, listening to Mob Hits on the CD player, and enjoying a well done Hummel hot dog and the occasional glass of Kendall Jackson chardonnay. Her love for Sebago Lake continues with her children and grandchildren. Maureen enjoyed decorating her log cabin home for every holiday from Valentine's Day to Christmas and all of the in-betweens. Maureen was married to the love of her life, Ernest C. Leonardo, Jr., for 32 years; She was the loving mother of Amy Leite (Rodney), Heidi Russo, and Robert Russo; and younger sister of Bernie Shields (Wendy). She is also survived by her cherished grandchildren Michael Girolomoni, Jr., Emily Girolomoni (James Oliverio), Trinity Leite and Maddox Leite; great granddaughters Violet, Charlotte, Hazel, Stella and Amelia Oliverio and Madelyn Girolomoni; niece Allyson Shields; nephews Jason Shields (Lisa); William Leonardo, Jr. (Jessica and the little guy) and Ernest A. Leonardo (Silvia); brother in law William Leonardo; cousin Lois Masselli (and family); and her loyal K9 companion Finn who was always by her side. Finn will

continue to be by her side as he sadly passed away 3 days later. Maureen was predeceased by her brothers Joey Shields and Bobby Shields, and her in-laws Ernest C. and Mary Leonardo, Sr.

May the road rise up to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back,

May the sunshine warm upon your face,

May the rains fall soft upon your fields,

And until we meet again,

May God hold you in the palm of his hand.

"Love, Hugs & Kisses" XOXOXO

Funeral services are private under the direction of Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Avenue, Hamden. To leave an online condolence, please visit www.siskbrothers.com

Tribute Wall

NA

“ Our condolences to Amy Leite our sincere sympathy to you and your family.
Max and Nina .

Nina & Max Amora - November 01, 2025 at 09:02 PM

DR

“ My deepest condolences to Rusti's family. I worked with Rusti at Tyler Cooper & Alcorn. She was always so pleasant and had a smile on her face that lit up a room.
Until we meet again my friend.
Love Dianne Romans

Dianne Romans - October 27, 2025 at 11:51 AM

KH

“ Ernie and family. Ernie, while we may not have spoken or talk to each other in about 47 years I am saddened and sorry to hear of the passing of your wife Maureen. My prayers and condolences to you and your entire family. 😞

Keith Hodder - October 26, 2025 at 06:33 PM

EG

“ Emily Girolomoni lit a candle in memory of Maureen Leonardo



Emily Girolomoni - October 26, 2025 at 06:11 PM

HR

“ I love you, Mom. You have been the greatest supporter in my life. You were always there for me—guiding me with your motherly love and wisdom. You stood by my side for 52 years, through every phase of my life.



You showed up for everything—school concerts, sporting events, and the birth of my twins. You were so proud to be a grandmother, even though you’d laugh and say, “I’m too young to be a grandmother!” Looking back, I know you realized how fortunate you were to be a young grandmother, because it allowed you to share in so many of our family’s milestones.

Your grandchildren have been blessed to have you in their lives, and we have been even more blessed that you were part of your great-grandchildren’s lives as well. You witnessed your family legacy grow—four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren—each one a reflection of your love, strength, and spirit.

You will be forever missed and endlessly loved. Thank you for everything you taught me, for every moment you cheered for me in a crowd, for every hug that brought me comfort, and for always answering whenever I called.

I will miss hearing you say, “Hi, babe!”

I will love you always, your daughter
Xoxo

Heidi

Heidi Russo - October 24, 2025 at 06:57 PM



“ *Amy Leite lit a candle in memory of Maureen Leonardo*



Amy Leite - October 24, 2025 at 04:15 PM