



## Anne O'Hara Swofford

September 13, 1929 - January 26, 2024

Rita Anne O'Hara Swofford, 94, of Lakewood Ranch, Florida passed away on Friday, January 26, 2024. Anne (Rita on paper only), was born at home on the family farm on September 13, 1929, the second of 5 children, in Ruma, Illinois to William and Irene O'Hara.

Anne met the love of her life, Bill Swofford, on a blind date in St Louis, Missouri. Bill was swept off his feet by her sense of humor, charm and beautiful red hair. A farm girl educated in a one-room schoolhouse & Red Bud High School, and a college-educated city boy fresh from East St. Louis, were married for 68 years, 65 happy ones as Bill would joke!

Anne and Bill's first home in St Ann, a suburb of St Louis, MO, welcomed Charles, Mike and Julie into the world. They moved to Florissant, MO, and along came Susan and Nancy. Anne was most proud of raising her 5 kids and doting on her grandkids.

Following Bill's job promotions, they moved the family from the St. Louis area to Branford, CT, then to a hill-nestled home in Hingham, MA where they lived for 22 years. Each place they landed, Anne created warm, loving spaces for memorable family gatherings. Among the grandkids, you will find many special memories of Nanny, including the hot tub, tin of M&M's and homemade cinnamon applesauce.

Together they enjoyed visiting family and friends across the US and traveled internationally including Japan, Russia, Ireland, England, Scotland and a memorable last trip to Italy.

Anne and Bill retired to The Villages, FL in 1995 where they enjoyed 23 more happy years together until Bill's death in 2018. After an additional 3 years in The Villages, Anne made her final move to Lakewood Ranch, FL in 2021 to be near her youngest daughter Nancy.

Anne is remembered fondly for her quick wit, positive attitude, and lifelong love of sewing, cooking and gardening. She loved to tell stories about working for Mr. Alexander, a prominent Armenian tailor in St. Louis. In Hingham, she was well known for hosting fabulous dinner parties. Anne's love for flowers and fresh vegetables was cultivated as a child in her mother's garden.

All agree that, at her core, she was generous and thoughtful. She was raised helping others around her and had a gift for it. She had a knack for remembering birthdays, a reputation for delivering a home-cooked meal to any family in need, and the patience and character to donate her time at hospitals and hospice houses.

Anne and Bill were both devout Catholics. Following in her family's footsteps, Anne's spiritual side emerged in her later years as she joined a centering prayer and meditation group at her church. She continued to donate to Catholic Charities, Maryknoll Brothers & Sisters, and Habitat for Humanity to the end.

Anne is survived by her youngest sister Mary O'Hara Wyman (Larry); 4 of her 5 children: Charles (Sharon), Michael, Julie (Andy), and Nancy (Bill); 9 grandchildren: Will (Jen) & Laura (Jason), Mike (Leah), Tim & Summer, Chip

& Danny, and Annie (Ben) & Allyson (Tom); 7 great-grandchildren: Isla & Zoe, Benjamin & Noah, Jack & Henry, and Eli; and by many nieces and nephews, including some O'Hara's still on the family farm in Ruma, over a hundred years later!

Anne was preceded in death by her parents Irene and William O'Hara; husband Bill Swofford; daughter Susan Swofford Moukalled; and siblings Jane O'Hara Carter, Genevieve O'Hara Brueggemann, and Patrick O'Hara.

We would like to thank the staff at Windsor Reflections Memory Care for providing Anne a caring home for the past 2.5 years and Tidewell Hospice for the care provided in the final 2 weeks.

Mass and inurnment will take place Sat May 18th, 10:30 am, St Patricks Catholic Church 1 Pioneer Ln, Ruma, IL. Sentiments may be left online at Maloney Funeral Home: <https://www.mfhcares.com/obituaries/anne-swofford>

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the non-profit Tidewell Hospice: <https://tidewellfoundation.org/donate/>

# Previous Events

## Memorial Mass

MAY 18. 10:30 AM (CT)

St. Patricks Catholic Church  
1 Pioneer Lane  
Ruma, IL

# Tribute Wall

MW

“ My dearest Swofford family:

*What a plethora of emotions when death looks us in the eye. To each of you so closely related to Anne Swofford who are reading this letter, I know that strong emotions were released in you when your dear mother left her earthly family on Friday. And where did that vibrant Annie Marooney go on Friday? I'm not sure, but I remember so well when I was in grade school, Anne announced one day to all of us, shocking our mother by saying: "Well, I sure don't want to go to hell when I die. I'll be satisfied if I just make it into purgatory."*

*My sister. Your mother. Kind. Generous. Endlessly loving all of us through thick and thin. All of us having little crises now and then, and she was there for us. The Family Matriarch. Devoted to each of us, cradling us endlessly, adoring her grand children. Forgiving us. Loving us.*

*We have watched Anne transition through many wonderful and also difficult stages of her life. And she did it cooperatively, willingly, gradually relying fully on the loving care provided by all her children.*

*You know I'll miss Annie. But please also know that every time Larry and I, Amelia and Nathan think of her, a big, big smile is on our lips in every little thing about her that comes to mind. Remember the uncountable good times, sweet times, full of love times that carry us each generationally.*

*Sending Wyman family love to all of you.*

*Your Aunt  
Mary O'Hara Wyman*

---

**Mary Wyman** - January 31, 2024 at 11:18 PM

SA

“ Satya lit a candle in memory of Anne O'Hara Swofford

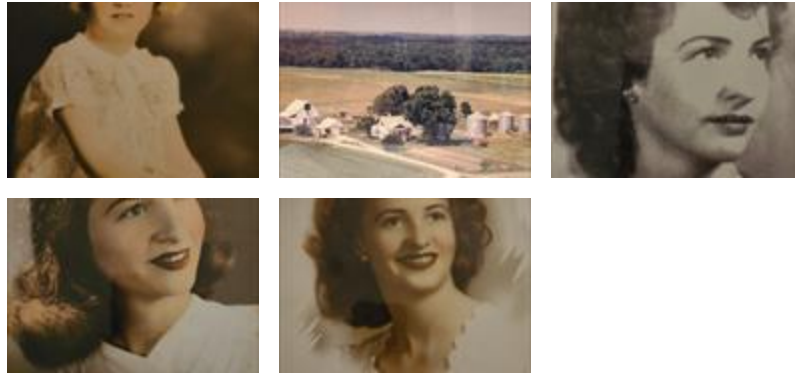


---

**Satya** - January 31, 2024 at 12:53 PM

JP

“ 171 files added to the album Photos



---

**Julie Pemberton** - January 30, 2024 at 07:05 PM