



## Mary Louise Woelfel (née Williams)

January 2, 2026

Mary Louise Woelfel (née Williams), 84, died at her Colorado home on January 2nd, 2026. She is survived by her companion, Curtis Mettlin; son, Joe (Jill Lehman) Woelfel, and grandchildren, Jamie and Tyler; daughter, Johanna Woelfel, and grandchildren Oscar and Ian. She is preceded in death by her beloved parents, Margaret Veronica Williams (née O'Brien) and Guilford Ward Williams, siblings, Margie (Jack) Whalen, Jimmy (Toni) Williams, and Gerry (Linda) Williams. Mary Lou was born on November 16, 1941, in Lackawanna, New York, and grew up in Orchard Park, New York (Go Bills). She graduated from Buffalo's Mount Mercy Academy, earned her Bachelor's Degree from Canisius College, her Master's Degree from Michigan State University, and completed further graduate studies at SUNY Albany. Mary Lou spent most of her career at the New York State Department of Health where she worked in multiple positions related to public health including statistician, researcher, and director. She was one of the first people to staff the state's AIDS Bureau in the early 1980's, went on to lead the Office of Sexual Health and Epidemiology, and later to direct the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program for the entire state. In each capacity, she helped save lives. Mary Lou was a published author and talented researcher, authoring and co-authoring numerous scholarly articles for multiple journals and organizations including the National Institutes of Health. Mary Lou loved genealogy, walking, reading, skiing, Sudoku, meeting people, and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a proud South Buffalo native with a soft spot for the her family's first

home in the Irish First Ward. She will be greatly missed by her family and many friends. At Mary Lou's request, there will be no services. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Mount Mercy Academy, The Buffalo Irish Center, or the American Cancer Society.

# Tribute Wall



“ So sorry Joe & Johanna for the loss of your Mom.

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**Peter Conlin** - January 16 at 02:26 AM