



Jean Ellen Spence

January 10, 1947 - September 10, 2025

Jean Ellen Spence of Rock Hall, Maryland passed away on September 10, 2025, at the University of Maryland Shore Medical Center in Chestertown. She was 78 years old.

Jean was born on January 10, 1947, in Rock Hall, the daughter of the late Andrew John Powhida and Amy Rosalie (Higgins) Powhida. She graduated from Rock Hall High School, with the Class of 1965. In May of that same year, she married the late Jerry Cameron Spence, who preceded her in death, in 2023.

Jean spent many years as a bookkeeper. In that role, for the Washington College Dining Services, she facilitated baccalaureate study and degrees for her daughters, Holly and Debbie. She also worked at H&R Block, Chestertown Lumber Company and LaMotte Chemical Company. Even in her retirement, Jean processed tax returns for many of her friends and family, as well as helping whoever needed it, with administrative tasks.

Jean loved her community and throughout her lifetime, she was involved in The Rock Hall Alumni Association, Parks and Recreation, Relay for Life and Hidden Treasures, to name a few. The only thing Jean loved more than helping others, was getting a good bargain; she was the Queen of yard sales, thrift stores and the clearance aisle at Walgreens. Her favorite day of the year

was the 4th of July, and if you showed up for the annual fireworks the night before, she would make sure you participated in singing The National Anthem and reciting The Pledge of Allegiance.

Jean was a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and a friend to everyone she met. In addition to her parents and husband Jerry, she was preceded in death by her daughter Holly Short, her sister Pat Hastings, and her best friend, Bootsie Bell.

She is survived by her daughter Debbie Spence (who referred to her as “Momma Jeannie”) grandchildren Megan Esper (Taylor), Jamie Short, Cameron Spence and Jordan Short; great-grandchildren (who lovingly referred to her as “Old People Mommom”) Caleb, Levi and Saylor; sisters Rebecca Glenn (Bobby) and Karen May (Joe); brother, John Powhida; beloved in-laws Candy and Kenny Hausenfluck and Peggy-Sue and Larry Stickley ; special daughter Stephanie Balderrama, and many nieces, nephews, cousins and close friends. Rock Hall will certainly never be the same, without Jean Spence, who served as the Grand Marshall of the 2025 Rock Hall 4th of July Parade.

Please consider making a donation in Jean’s name to Compass Regional Hospice and Camp New Dawn, both at 160 Coursevall Drive, Centreville, MD 21617, or to The Rock Hall Fire Company, P.O. Box 577, Rock Hall, MD 21661.

Services will be held October 11, 2025, at 1pm where friends and family may gather two hours prior from 11 am until 1 pm at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home Chestertown, Md.

Previous Events

Viewing

OCT 11. 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Funeral Service

OCT 11. 1:00 PM (ET)

Fellows, Helfenbein, and Newnam Funeral Home
130 Speer Road
Chestertown, MD 21620
<http://www.fhnfuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - October 09, 2025 at 01:58 PM

JH

Beautiful memorirs. we will be thinkingband praying for all of you today. Jeanie will be forever in my heart.

June Hadaway - October 11, 2025 at 09:38 AM



“ *Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home created a Webcast in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home - October 07, 2025 at 10:38 AM

LF

“ Love The Sarver Family purchased the Pink Tribute Spray for the family of Jean Ellen Spence.



Love The Sarver Family - October 09, 2025 at 04:28 PM

LF

“ Love The Sarver Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean Ellen Spence.

Love The Sarver Family - October 09, 2025 at 04:28 PM

RM

“ Rena Markey purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Jean Ellen Spence.



Rena Markey - October 09, 2025 at 09:48 AM

AM

“ Good morning, I thank you for being a great neighbor for my family. May God continue to bless your family. You will truly be missed.
Andrea



Andrea McDowell - October 09, 2025 at 06:50 AM

LK

“ I went to school with Jean many years ago.
So sorry to read of her passing.



Linds Kneisler - October 08, 2025 at 04:14 PM

JA

“ Joy, Tess and April purchased the Peaceful White
Lilies Basket for the family of Jean Ellen Spence.



Joy, Tess and April - October 08, 2025 at 01:38 PM

TL

“ The Legg's lit a candle in memory of Jean
Ellen Spence



The Legg's - October 08, 2025 at 01:18 PM

TS

“ Todd And Diane Smith lit a candle in memory
of Jean Ellen Spence



Todd and Diane Smith - October 08, 2025 at 04:07 AM

JJ

“ Jessica Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Jessica Jacobs - October 07, 2025 at 07:26 PM

BA

“ Barbara Mills Allen lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Barbara Mills Allen - October 07, 2025 at 05:55 PM

BA

I was so sorry to hear of Ms. Jeans passing. What a great lady she was. Always willing to help someone. I will always remember how kind she was when we loss my brother Gene and my Mom.

Barbara Mills Allen - October 07, 2025 at 06:01 PM

LC

“ Louise Clayton lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Louise Clayton - October 06, 2025 at 09:20 AM

TF

“ *The short family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jean Ellen Spence.*



The short family - October 05, 2025 at 02:51 PM

JL

“ *Jennifer K and Mary Lorraine purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Jean Ellen Spence.*



Jennifer K and Mary Lorraine - October 05, 2025 at 12:29 PM

EO

“ *Ellen O'Donnell-Anderson lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Ellen O'Donnell-Anderson - October 05, 2025 at 11:16 AM

MC

“ *Mary Lou Christian lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Mary Lou Christian - September 30, 2025 at 10:05 AM

MC

Miss Jeannie, thank you for all of your love and kindness. You were truly an earth Angel. I love you and will miss you forever. Sending all of my love and prayers to all of your wonderful family. Love always, Mary Lou

Mary Lou Christian - September 30, 2025 at 10:08 AM

AR

She was a sweet lady and will be greatly missed. Anna Riggin

Anna Riggin - October 02, 2025 at 02:40 PM

JM

“ *Joan M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean Ellen Spence.*

Joan M. - September 25, 2025 at 09:53 AM

WV

“ *Wendy, Barb, Terri and Val planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Jean Ellen Spence.*

Wendy, Barb, Terri and Val - September 24, 2025 at 07:51 PM

WV

“ *Wendy, Barb, Terri and Val purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Jean Ellen Spence.*



Wendy, Barb, Terri and Val - September 24, 2025 at 07:51 PM

DD

“ *Debbie Dalrymple lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Debbie Dalrymple - September 23, 2025 at 03:52 PM

GS

“ *My condolences to the Spence family at this time.*



George Short - September 22, 2025 at 11:16 AM

RK

“ *Rita And Eddie Kulley lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Rita and Eddie Kulley - September 21, 2025 at 03:09 PM

RK

There will never be another person like Jean. She was the kindest, sweetest, most generous and helpful person I know. She will ALWAYS be remembered as the matriarch of Rock Hall. She had a caring soul for everyone. I know Jerry is so happy to see her, but I bet he was thinking it was a little too soon. We love you Jean.

Rita and Eddie Kulley - September 21, 2025 at 03:12 PM

JC

“ Dearest family and friends of Jeanie, It's with the heaviest heart that I write this tribute for our beloved Jeanie. For so many of us, she wasn't just Jean, she was our Jeanie. A name that always brought a smile to our faces.

Jeanie was truly a remarkable soul-a wonderful friend, devoted mother, and a cherished grandmother. Her kindness and thoughtfulness touched every life she encountered. She had the incredible gift of remembering everyone, making each person feel seen and valued. Her presence was a warm embrace , and her memory will forever be a beacon of love and light in our lives. We will miss her dearly, but her spirit, her warmth, with her unwavering love will live on in all of us.



Janet Coleman - September 18, 2025 at 01:34 PM

DS

Thank you! 💜

Debbie Spence - September 29, 2025 at 08:54 AM



“ Sam Buckel lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Sam Buckel - September 18, 2025 at 09:38 AM

GC

“ Gene And Lynda Palmatary, Centreville sent a virtual gift in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Gene and Lynda Palmatary, Centreville - September 17, 2025 at 09:31 PM

NH

“ Nancy Hubbard lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Nancy Hubbard - September 17, 2025 at 01:31 PM

JH

“ June Hadaway lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



June Hadaway - September 17, 2025 at 12:27 PM

KN

“ Kelly Nichol lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



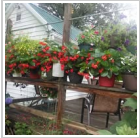
Kelly Nichol - September 17, 2025 at 12:17 PM

CN

“ Christopher & Vivian Nordhoff lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Christopher & Vivian Nordhoff - September 17, 2025 at 11:53 AM



“ Sherrie Jacobs lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Sherrie Jacobs - September 17, 2025 at 10:39 AM

NB

“ Nancy Boone lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Nancy Boone - September 17, 2025 at 09:34 AM

AH

“ It saddens me to hear that Jean has passed. She was such a sweet lady. She will be missed by anyone that knew her.



Anita Hayes - September 17, 2025 at 08:16 AM

KB

“ *Kaye Barnes lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Kaye Barnes - September 17, 2025 at 08:12 AM

JS

“ *Jeanette Stubbs lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Jeanette Stubbs - September 17, 2025 at 07:49 AM

MU

“ *My heart is so heavy, like many others, I'm going to miss her dearly for more reasons than anyone will ever know. I will rejoice that she's been reunited with the ones she has missed and stands with them embraced in the almighty arms of Jesus. My deepest sympathy to family and friends, as well as, my thoughts and prayers.*



Marie Usilton - September 17, 2025 at 06:07 AM

RP

“ *I will miss her phone calls we talked at least once a week she was my cousin loved her she kept me up on.Rock Hall news and was a good friend I live in Baltimore but grew up in Rock Hall and will miss talking to her. I am Rose Smithson Piper.*

Rose Smithson Piper - September 16, 2025 at 11:13 PM

PT

“ Pam Teat lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Pam Teat - September 16, 2025 at 11:08 PM

DJ

“ Darrell Jester lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Darrell Jester - September 16, 2025 at 10:41 PM

LC

“ Ms Jean was always kind and wanting to know how is your day going. She speaks her mind and funny at times telling her stories. She will surely be missed. Praying for her family to find comfort knowing she was loved by all she met and made a difference in this world. She has now with her Beloved Mr. Gerry and daughter Holly\0/ We will all miss her.



Luisa Carlisle - September 16, 2025 at 09:37 PM

LF

“ *Linda Foote lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Linda Foote - September 16, 2025 at 09:09 PM

BE

“ *She was a sweet dear soul and loved*



BettyJo and Kenny Embert - September 16, 2025 at 08:19 PM

JE

“ *Jo Ann Edwards lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Jo Ann Edwards - September 16, 2025 at 07:44 PM

JE

Dearest Jean:

Our children went to school together, our grandchildren went to school together, and our husbands worked together - along with Johnny. I will miss all the fun things we have done over the years. You are my hero - everything I would like to be and more. You loved people and people loved you - with good reason. Until we meet again my friend

Jo Ann Edwards - September 16, 2025 at 07:53 PM

EL

“ *Ellen lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Ellen - September 16, 2025 at 06:53 PM

EL

Ms Jean was the kindest sweetest lady! She had a heart of gold & a back bone made of steel! Just a great lady! ❤️

Ellen - September 16, 2025 at 07:00 PM

KO

“ *I love you, Ms. Jean, and I will miss you forever. To everyone blessed enough to actually be related to this amazing woman, I am sending each of you so much love and praying for your broken hearts. The world lost an incredible person on September 10. I will forever be grateful to have been able to call her my friend for the last 6 years. I really wish we could've all had more time.*

Kari Oulahyane - September 16, 2025 at 06:22 PM

JH

“ *Joan Hatcherson lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence*



Joan Hatcherson - September 16, 2025 at 06:02 PM

DH

“ Denny And Judy Hickman lit a candle in memory of Jean Ellen Spence



Denny and Judy Hickman - September 16, 2025 at 05:24 PM

BG

“ Sending heartfelt prayers to all of Jeans family. Jean was a sweetheart and her family will have many memories to cherish.



Bettyann Goenn - September 16, 2025 at 02:46 PM

BC

“ Jean I am so happy for you and so sad for us lifted down here without you . The first words you heard was from Jesus saying well done my good and faithful servant . I loved being around you . You always had a smile on your face and you made everybody around you smile too. I thank God for putting you in our life . Well this is not goodbye my old friend but just see you later.

Barry and Nancy Conner - September 16, 2025 at 02:28 PM