



Rita C. Dowling

June 18, 1937 - February 3, 2024

Rita C. Dowling, long-time resident of Annapolis, Md., wife of the late Dr. John A. Dowling, M.D., and beloved mother of five, died on February 3, 2024 at her assisted living residence in Crofton, MD after surviving many years with Alzheimer's disease. She was 86.

Born June 18, 1937, in Norwalk Connecticut, she graduated from Ridgewood High School in Ridgewood, NJ and then attended Manhattanville College in Purchase, New York where she received a B.A. in mathematics. She pursued a career as a Technical Representative for the Burroughs Corporation and then later worked for IBM as a Systems Engineer in New York City.

She met John A. Dowling while both were living and working in New York City and they were married in a Catholic ceremony on Sept. 30, 1961 at the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, NJ. The couple moved multiple times due to his medical residency training in plastic and reconstructive surgery, but eventually settled in Potomac, MD where they resided for almost 20 years raising five adopted children.

In 1977, Rita began a 40 year career in personal property/real estate management in which she directed the investment, renovation, interior design, rental, sales, and construction of over 25 houses, apartments, flats, condominiums, and even a farm. She researched and invested in locations

that over time proved lucrative hot spots: Nantucket Island, MA, Eastern Shore of MD, Annapolis, MD, St. Simon Island, GA, Mercersburg, PA, Connemara and Dublin, Ireland, London, England, Key West, FL, and NY, NY. Her specialty was identifying properties with spectacular waterfront views.

Real estate investment was both a career and hobby for Rita. She enjoyed sharing her properties with family, friends, and renters alike. She loved being with friends and loved ones in the outdoors, hiking, gardening, golfing, swimming and sailing. She was an avid and enthusiastic world traveler and had friends all over the globe. Over her lifetime, Rita became a prolific and talented water color painter often painting the views from her properties.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband of 32 years, Dr. John A. Dowling, her two brothers Dr. Paul J. Cannon and Kerry J. Cannon, and her son, Thomas Matthew Dowling.

Rita is survived by her four children, David (Jovanny), Sean (Wendy), Anne (Matthew) Auer, and Elizabeth (Christopher, deceased) Hale and six grandchildren, Hayley, Eric, John, Emma, Madison and Michael.

A memorial mass service will be held on February 12, 2024 at 1 p.m. at Mother of Sorrows, Centreville, MD and burial will follow at St. Peters Catholic Church.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to a local Catholic Charities or Habitat for Humanity.

Cemetery Details

St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery

5319 Ocean Gateway
Queenstown, MD 21658

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 12. 1:00 PM (ET)

Our Mother of Sorrows Church
303 Chesterfield Avenue
Centreville, MD

Tribute Wall



“ So sorry to hear of Rita’s passing. One of my most memorable times with Rita and John was joining the Dowling for thanksgiving on the Corsica river in Centreville with my mother in law and my bride to be Irma and jacqui connor. Wish we could have been at the funeral. Again so sorry to hear this sad news

Ken Steuerman - February 15, 2024 at 06:15 PM



“ Margaret, Peter, and the Girls purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Rita C. Dowling.



Margaret, Peter, and the Girls - February 11, 2024 at 09:27 PM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Rita C. Dowling.



February 11, 2024 at 07:20 PM



“ The Clayton/Wright Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita C. Dowling.

The Clayton/Wright Family - February 11, 2024 at 07:20 PM

JM

“ Hello...may the happy memories of Rita Dowling bring peace during this difficult time. I am a college lacrosse friend of Anne's, and am so grateful that Rita raised such a dear friend of mine! I remember enjoying visiting the farm on the eastern shore! And Rita kindly granted my husband and me the opportunity to stay in her Connemara Ireland home (with sweeping grand ocean views) for our honeymoon. Of course that is an unforgettable memory, and we will forever be grateful! My true condolences at this tough time....and best regards to all. Most sincerely, Jen Gifford Metz

Jen Metz - February 09, 2024 at 04:09 PM

CJ

“ Christine and John purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Rita C. Dowling.



Christine and John - February 09, 2024 at 09:00 AM

CJ

“ Christine and John planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Rita C. Dowling.

Christine and John - February 09, 2024 at 09:00 AM