

## **Carol Ann Dougherty**

Carol Ann Dougherty, 79, passed away on November 25, 2024, at her home in Ocoee, Florida. She was born on December 22, 1944, in Brooklyn, New York. In February 1946, Carol was lovingly welcomed into the home of Anthony and Evelyn Derbin as a foster child and later adopted. She often reflected fondly on her childhood in Yonkers, New York, filled with gratitude for being chosen as their daughter.

Carol graduated from Alliance College in 1966 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Science and later earned a Master of Arts degree in Mental Health Counseling from Webster University in 1998. With a deep commitment to serving others, she went on to become a Licensed Mental Health Counselor.



On September 3, 1966, Carol married the love of her life, John "Jack" Dougherty, at St. Casimir's Church in Yonkers, New York. Their adventurous journey together took them across several states-New York, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, and Florida. Along the way, they created a loving home for their two children and welcomed many foster children into their lives, embodying generosity and compassion.

Carol had a steadfast work ethic and a passion for uplifting others. While she held various roles throughout her career, her most rewarding work was counseling young children, where her compassion left a lasting impact on the families she served.

As a hobby, Carol enjoyed crafting. From making shell wreaths to designing beaded jewelry, she was always creating something. She also loved to travel, whether exploring Europe, visiting family on Long Island, or enjoying a weekend at the beach. Her suitcase was always packed for her next adventure.

Above all, Carol was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother and cherished friend who built meaningful and enduring relationships. She leaves behind a legacy of love and laughter, survived by her son, John Dougherty; her daughter, Jacqueline Bonavitacola; and her grandchildren, Ryan, Kelton, Padraig, Ronan, Emily, and Haley, all of whom she adored and supported unconditionally.

Carol was predeceased by her husband of 45 years, John "Jack" Dougherty, who passed away in September 2011; her parents, Evelyn and Anthony Derbin; and her brothers, Wesley M. Derbin and Anthony Derbin.

Family and friends are invited to celebrate Carol's life on December 14, 2024, at Collison Carey Hand Funeral Home, 1148 E. Plant St., Winter Garden, FL. The family will receive visitors at 11 a.m., with a Celebration of Life service beginning at 12 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Carol's memory to the Alzheimer's Association or a charity of your choice.