



Carol Evangelo Rowe

April 25, 2026

Carol Evangelo Rowe, age 78, died peacefully at her home in Portsmouth, Virginia, Saturday night, April 25, 2026, holding the hand of her beloved husband and best friend John. As in life, they now remain inseparable in spirit.

Carol was born and grew up in Portsmouth. She was the daughter of the late Angelo Evangelo Sr.

and the late Elise Cooper Evangelo. She was a 1965 honor graduate of Woodrow Wilson High School. She graduated from Tidewater Community College with academic honors with her Associate's Degree. Believing that education is a life-long endeavor, she later graduated from James Madison University (JMU) with academic honors with her Bachelor's Degree. While at JMU, Carol was the recipient of the Elizabeth M. Finlayson Award, which recognizes the outstanding academic achievement of an adult student completing their undergraduate education later in their life.

In addition to her zest for learning, she was passionate about uplifting and improving her wider community so that all would have both equal opportunities and justice. In doing so, she approached each task with unmatched energy, determination, and

enthusiasm. Her pursuit for making all things better was infectious to others. Professionally, Carol was an accomplished banker, then became the Public Information Officer for the City of Portsmouth, and retired as the Grants Manager for the Portsmouth Public Schools. In recognition of her “let’s get things done” spirit, in 2008, the Alumni of the Vann H. Lefcoe Leadership Development program presented Carol with its “Sail Award” for her outstanding leadership in the Portsmouth Public Schools. Carol was involved in many community and civic organizations and served as the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Emily Green Shores Assisted Living facility and on the Board of Directors of Safety Town.

Carol was devoted to her Church and her family. She grew up in Calvary Baptist Church where she spearheaded a project to renovate the church’s Sunday School facilities for the children, sang in the choir, and played the violin in the orchestra. Later, she and John joined their “forever church”, St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church in Portsmouth. Family was her top priority. She especially loved being grandmother to three wonderful grandchildren, Nicholas Burroughs McDonald, Carter John Rowe, and Payton Brie Rowe. Carol is also survived by her husband, John L. Rowe, Jr., her bonus daughter Jennifer McDonald, her bonus son Brian Rowe and Brian’s wife Amanda, her sisters Faye Evangelo Garrett and Dorothy Evangelo McGlaughon and Dorothy’s husband Billy. In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her brother Angelo Evangelo, Jr.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 PM, Friday, May 1, 2026, at Loving Funeral Home, 3225 Academy Ave, Portsmouth, Virginia.

A celebration of Carol's life will be held at 11:00 AM, Saturday, May 2, 2026, at St. Christopher's Episcopal Church with The Rev. Eileen P. Walsh, Rector officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Endowment Fund, 3300 Cedar Lane, Portsmouth, Virginia 23703.

Upcoming Events

A Visitation Celebrating Her Life

MAY 1. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Loving Funeral Home Churchland Chapel
3225 Academy Ave
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Funeral Service

MAY 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Christopher's Episcopal Church
3300 Cedar Lane
Portsmouth, VA 23703

Tribute Wall

LH

“ *LeeAnn Hellman lit a candle in memory of Carol Evangelo Rowe*



LeeAnn Hellman - Yesterday at 02:43 PM

SS

“ *Carol was my Cousin. As a child I spent alot of time with them, spending the night alot. Carol and her sister's taught me to read before I even went to school. I love her, Faye, and Dorothy and Angelo Jr. I will never forget the influences FmCarol and her Sisters and Brother had on my life. I will miss her so much, but I know she's in Heaven and I will see her again one day. ❤️*

Susan Sumner - Yesterday at 02:36 PM

CK

“ *Carol, along with John, well served their community. As a couple, they shared a passion for the arts, supporting Portsmouth Community Concerts as well as other related organizations. They were responsible for introducing us to the local arts scene. We hold them in our hearts not only as neighbors but as a solid Christian brother and sister. - Charles and Susan Kalan*

Charles and Susan Kalan - Yesterday at 02:26 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Carol Evangelo Rowe.*



Yesterday at 01:09 PM



“ *Words cannot express how loving and caring my Aunt was in life and now in spirit. She will truly be missed and will never be forgotten. She is with the Lord now.*

Josh Evangelo - Yesterday at 12:52 PM



“ *Josh Evangelo lit a candle in memory of Carol Evangelo Rowe*



Josh Evangelo - Yesterday at 12:52 PM