



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.

Previous 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

LL

“ Carol, my friend, my fiddle buddy, my Bitty Bow. She always said she didn't “play” the violin, she just flops around. She was better than that, but it makes me laugh every time I think about it. I enjoyed all the times we played duets, just for fun at Emily Green Shores for the residents or for church. Her smile, laughter and energy was infectious. The room always lit up when she came in. There is a new light in heaven today. I love you Bitty Bow and we will resume our duets in the glory of heaven in the presence of our sweet Jesus. 🎻❤️🎵

Linda Lacy - May 02 at 05:36 PM

PJ

“ Carol! What a beautiful woman you were! Not just outwardly were you beautiful, but your heart was so full of warmth and love that it exuded beauty through your sparkling eyes and infectious smile. I loved every ministry we shared together! Orchestra, choir, handbells, children's ministries, movie nite, Emily Green Shores Board of Directors, church dinners, and on and on! Your spunk and confidence always inspired me to strive for bettering whatever we did together and apart. I know yours and John's families adored you. Our church family at Calvary Baptist Church adored you. I will be seeing you in the throne room one day and continue our celebration with Jesus Christ! 😊🙏✝️

Pamela P James - May 01 at 03:37 PM



“ Sunny Memories was purchased for the family of Carol Evangelo Rowe.



May 01 at 04:12 AM



“ The Glista Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Carol Evangelo Rowe.



The Glista Family - April 30 at 05:54 PM



“ Veronica and Emily Green Shores sends our condolences to the family. She was a very lovely lady and will always be remembered.

Veronica Drewery - April 30 at 02:33 PM



“ Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky lit a candle in memory of Carol Evangelo Rowe



Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky - April 30 at 11:03 AM

MM

“ Mary and Marisa purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Carol Evangelo Rowe.



Mary and Marisa - April 30 at 05:45 AM

BR

“ John, our thoughts & prayers are with you and your family at this most difficult time

Bill & Cathy Rucker - April 29 at 08:16 PM



“ Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Carol Evangelo Rowe.



April 29 at 04:40 PM

BB

“ Mr. Rowe, we were so sorry to see your precious wife's obituary in the paper this morning. We have always enjoyed you two coming in our store over the years. I know these last years have been harder in your love story than you could have imagined but God was with you every day and now we can rejoice in her homecoming and complete healing. Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you as you gather with your family and friends and celebrate her beautiful life. "Well done thy good and faithful servant" were words she heard as she entered heavens gates.

Bobby and Faye Beale - April 29 at 04:34 PM

MM

“ I will always treasure the years that Carol and I worked side by side, striving to make things better for the students and staff of Portsmouth Public Schools. Carol’s grantwriting skills, and her ability to work with all kinds of people on all kinds of initiatives, were a treasure beyond measure for PPS. As a co-worker and a friend she could be counted on for congratulations when things went well, encouragement when times were hard, and a sympathetic ear when it was needed. My condolences go out to John and her entire family. She was a truly wonderful lady. Maureen Mizelle

Maureen Mizelle - April 29 at 02:28 PM



Maureen said it perfectly. Maureen, Carol and I worked together at Portsmouth Public Schools with the Portsmouth Schools Foundation and in the Grants office. Carol was an amazing person and an outstanding employee. She always had a wonderful sense of humor and saw the best in everyone. I also have wonderful memories of Carol and John living in Emporia, Virginia across the street from my mother. We had many good times together in Emporia as well as Portsmouth. My thoughts and prayers are with John and her family. Glenda Brown

Glenda Brown - April 29 at 04:13 PM



Mr. John Rowe, other family, and friends, our hearts are with you in this time of loss. Carol was a gift to our community, and we will cherish her memory.

Mark Geduldig-Yatrofsky - April 30 at 11:01 AM

LH

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



LeeAnn Hellman - April 28 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 - April 28 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 - April 28 at 02:26 PM



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



April 28 at 01:09 PM

JE

“ 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 - April 28 at 12:52 PM

JE

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



Josh Evangelo - April 28 at 12:52 PM

CY

Hubert & Christine Young

Christine Young - April 30 at 04:20 PM