



Evelyn Jane Cole

July 17, 1941 - October 31, 2025

Evelyn Jane Cole, age 84, of Crown Point, passed away peacefully on October 31, 2025, surrounded by the love of her family. She was born on July 17, 1941, in Lansing, Illinois, to Hugh and Eileen Richardson.

Evelyn graduated from TF South High School in 1959 and remained close to several classmates throughout her life.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Raymond Cole; her granddaughter, Rebecca Lynn Bridegroom; her brother, Alan Richardson; and her beloved nephew, Brook Smith.

Evelyn is survived by her children: Lee Donahoe of Hobart, IN; Sue (Doug) Bridegroom of Valparaiso, IN; and Stacey Reid of Winter Haven, FL; and her stepsons Gregory (Sandy) Dillman of Houston, TX; and Jonathon Cole of Winter Park, FL. She was the proud grandmother of Nick (Amber) and Dan Bridegroom, Tyler (Kayla) Donahoe, McKenna and Marley Reid, and Vivian Cole, and the adoring great-grandmother of six. She is also survived by her beloved sisters Virginia Janowski, Sandy (Jim) Bridges, and Karen (Rick) Smith, along with many nieces and nephews she loved dearly.

Evelyn's servant heart began when she quickly became a high accoladed volunteer as the Coordinator for the Family Services Program with the Dept of

the Air Force in the 60's. Over the years, she devoted herself to volunteer work with S.A.D.D., M.A.D.D., and the DARE program (which she helped bring to Hobart, IN), as well as Hobart Presbyterian Church as a Deacon, was a devout timer at her daughter's gymnastics meets, and Methodist Hospital, where she volunteered faithfully over 15 years until the COVID pandemic. After losing her husband Ray, her volunteer work became her purpose and passion—she treated it like a full-time calling and built lifelong friendships through her time there. She was also very honored to be nominated as the August 2024 calendar cover girl for the Pink Ribbon Society for Breast Cancer Survivors.

Her professional journey reflected love of people. She began as a bookkeeper for 7UP, then worked for upscale boutiques including Carija's in Gary and Denise's in Valparaiso, where her eye for fashion flourished. Always elegant and polished, Evelyn was known for her impeccable style and humor—she had more clothes than her daughters combined, yet somehow “never had anything to wear.”

In the late 1980s, she began her most beloved career as a teacher's aide at Hobart Middle School, where she worked for ten years. Her warmth and kindness touched the lives of countless students—many of whom continued to call her “Grandma” long after they'd grown. In 1988, Evelyn was honored as Hobart's Woman of the Year, recognizing her selfless service and commitment to her community.

Proud of her Scottish heritage, Evelyn began Scottish dancing as a young girl with her older sister, Virginia and dreamed of visiting Scotland one day. She and Ray loved traveling across the country together, photographing their adventures and collecting keepsakes from every stop—though St. Augustine, Florida, always held a special place in her heart.

Evelyn always loved crafting of some sort, roller skating in the 80's in her signature sparkly red skates, sharing fun times in her women's bowling league with her sister Sandy and always driving with the top down in her BMW.

More than anything, family was the center of Evelyn's life. She poured her time, love, and energy into creating a home that was welcoming to everyone. She believed family should always gather at the table, and her nightly dinners were a staple not an option. Holidays were sacred to her—Easter egg hunts in the house, Thanksgiving dinners filled with laughter, and Christmas mornings bursting with tradition and joy. Her home was the place where everyone wanted to be—where stories were told, memories were made, and love was always abundant. Evelyn's greatest pride was watching her family grow. Her children were her world, and her grandchildren quickly became her greatest joy. She celebrated every milestone, big or small, with genuine excitement and unending love. Whether cheering from the stands, offering wise advice, or sharing a laugh over the phone, she made each person feel seen, supported, and deeply loved.

Though our family is heartbroken by her passing, we find peace knowing she is reunited with those who went before her—free from pain, dancing in heaven, and watching over all of us with pride and love.

A visitation to celebrate Evelyn's life will be held on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. until the time of the funeral service at 6:00 p.m. at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, Indiana. Rev. Thomas Clark officiating.

Family and friends are encouraged to share memories, laughter, and love in honor of a truly remarkable woman whose light and spirit will never fade.

The family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the compassionate staff at Belvedere Senior Living in Merrillville, Indiana, and to Dr. Kurra and her staff for their exceptional care, kindness, and support. Their dedication and compassion brought great comfort to Evelyn and her family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Evelyn's name to the American Cancer Society.

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 5. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point

10101 Broadway

Crown Point, IN 46307

(219) 769-0044

info@burnsfuneral.com

<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Janell Moser - November 09, 2025 at 09:20 PM



We even dressed alike LOL

Janell Moser - November 09, 2025 at 09:21 PM

SR

I love this!! 

Stacey Reid - November 09, 2025 at 11:30 PM

JW

“ *I unfortunately did not have the privilege of knowing Ms. Evelyn Cole personally, however, through the love and cherished memories shared by her dearest daughter, and my amazing friend, Stacey, and her two girls, I felt like I knew her all my life. I had the honor of joining Stacey and our friends in (attempting) to sing a silly rendition of "happy birthday" over the phone to Evelyn this past July, and hearing her little giggle on the other end of the line was enough to etch that memory into my mind and heart forever. I am so very sorry for the loss of your sweet Mama Cole. She was a light here on earth and that light now shines brightly in the heavens amongst the stars. Our family sends their condolences, hugs, and prayers from Florida!*
Jackie, Shane, Zoe, and Liam

Jackie Williams - November 05, 2025 at 02:41 PM

SR

I love this Jackie! She sure did love our little birthday serenade. ☐

Stacey Reid - November 09, 2025 at 11:32 PM

AN

“ *Sending my condolences to Ms Evelyn children and family although I've known her for brief time she was a very sweet lady we got caught one day when I was pushing her down the hall and pushing my rotator at the same time I said uh oh we busted Ms Evelyn because I wasn't suppose to be pushing her we laughed so hard but i ended up still pushing her to her apt I loved her she was jazzy and a beautiful person inside and out. She will truly be missed R.I.Paridise Ms Evelyn from Angie your neighbor and friend 💜💜💜*

Angie - November 05, 2025 at 01:23 PM

SR

Angie...you were her ride or die at Belvedere. It didn't take long for her to figure out who her people were. ☐

Stacey Reid - November 09, 2025 at 11:34 PM

RR

“ *Rose Ross purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Evelyn Jane Cole.*



Rose Ross - November 05, 2025 at 10:16 AM

LB

“ Love.. Mike, Brad and Bailey! purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Evelyn Jane Cole.



Love.. Mike, Brad and Bailey! - November 04, 2025 at 08:45 PM

ML

“ Marti Lopez purchased the Pretty Please for the family of Evelyn Jane Cole.



Marti Lopez - November 04, 2025 at 05:02 PM

TA

“ On behalf of Dr. Kurra, Nurses, and Staff, please accept our deepest sympathies on the passing of Mrs. Evelyn. She will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire family during this challenging time.



Tonya A. - November 04, 2025 at 01:30 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Evelyn Jane Cole.



November 04, 2025 at 01:15 PM

YF

“ Your Breast Friends!!! planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Evelyn Jane Cole.

Your Breast Friends!!! - November 04, 2025 at 01:15 PM

DK

“ I worked with Evelyn as a volunteer at Methodist for about a year. This was probably 13 years ago. I was only in my mid 30's. Im now 47 yrs old, but will never forget her kindness. She was always so welcoming every day I volunteered. Eventually, volunteering helped me get a foot in the door to work full time at Methodist, which I've been doing for 12 years. It all started with volunteering, which Evelyn made a pleasant experience. Ill never forget how kind, funny, and helpful Evelyn was to me, the volunteers, and methodist employees. My heartfelt sympathy to the family, but this was a life worth celebrating for sure. Dave Krueger

Dave Krueger - November 04, 2025 at 11:11 AM

EG

“ Emma G. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Evelyn Jane Cole.

Emma G. - November 03, 2025 at 09:19 PM

LF

“ Love, Greg, Sandy Dillman and family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Evelyn Jane Cole.

Love, Greg, Sandy Dillman and family - November 03, 2025 at 08:29 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Evelyn Jane Cole.*



November 03, 2025 at 08:29 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Evelyn's Welcome Parade at Belvedere Senior Housing*



Belvedere Senior Housing - November 03, 2025 at 03:49 PM



We were so honored to welcome Evelyn to Belvedere Senior Housing and celebrate her arrival with a special welcome parade. Although our time together was brief, her presence made a lasting impression on all of us. Evelyn's humor, grace, and unmistakable sense of style brightened our days and touched the hearts of everyone who met her.

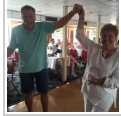
To her family, thank you for trusting us with the most valuable person in your lives. It was a privilege to care for and get to know such a remarkable woman. Evelyn will always be remembered with love and warmth here at Belvedere Senior Housing.

Belvedere Senior Housing - November 03, 2025 at 03:50 PM



Thank you so much for caring and loving on our mom as much as you did. You made a lasting impression on us and most importantly, made our mom's last months and days happy and comfortable. You all went above and beyond for her. ❤️

Stacey Reid - November 03, 2025 at 06:48 PM



We have been friends ever since she moved to Lansing and am heartbroken to hear of her passing. She was one special lady and a dear friend who I will miss very much. Yes we went roller skating every Saturday. The show on Fridays. She tried to teach me the traditional Scottish dancing. She made it look so easy, me not so much.

We were planning a get together, but my sister became very ill and needed 24 hour care. So our plans were on hold. Now I have to face the fact that I will always regret not seeing her one more time. And yes, I remember she drove it all the way to Florida top down. When she made up her mind to do something she never did it halfway.

Janell Moser - November 09, 2025 at 09:23 PM