

## OBITUARY



Mary Rose Butkus (nee Tighe) 82, of Washington Township, N.J., passed away peacefully on November 27, 2014, in her sleep. A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Dec. 2, 2014, at St. Lawrence the Martyr Church, 375 Main St., Chester, N.J. William J. Leber Funeral Home is handling funeral arrangements. For online condolences and information, visit [www.williamjleberfh.com](http://www.williamjleberfh.com). Mary Rose, or Rosemary as many called her, was known for her wit and personality. She was a graduate of Our Lady of the Valley High School in Orange, N.J., and St. Michael's School of Nursing in Newark, N.J. Mary was a pioneer in the field of rehab nursing, most recently employed by The Travelers Company before retiring. She was an avid reader and enjoyed the daily crossword puzzle. Her real hobby was being thoroughly involved in the lives of her children. She was

able to watch her son, John, win a national football championship for Lehigh University. She attended most of the high school soccer games when her daughter was a cheerleader. She regularly attended her sons' high school and college lacrosse games throughout the Northeast. She was elected to the South Orange -Maplewood Board of Education and served for three years. She volunteered for American Red Cross blood drives, the Maplewood 4th of July Medical Center, Columbia H.S. Cougar Boosters, and the Maplewood Lacrosse Club. Mary Rose was preceded in death by her husband of 39 years, Peter J. Butkus. She is survived by her brother, Francis P. Tighe Jr. of South Barre, Mass., and sisters, Ellen Grawehr of East Hanover, N.J., and Ann Culleton of Red Bank, N.J.; her children, Michael Butkus and his wife, Barbara, of Marietta, Ga.; John Butkus and his wife, Virginia, of Chester, N.J., and Mary Ellen Graessle and her husband, Kevin, of Marietta. Her six grandchildren, Michael Butkus Jr, Patrick Butkus, Sean Butkus, Shelby Graessle, Ryan Maxwell Graessle, and Peter Butkus, lovingly remember her. She also had a great-granddaughter, Reed Morgan Butkus. The family wishes to thank all of the staff at Heath Village in Hackettstown, N.J., for their years of caring service. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to the Foundation Fighting Blindness, P.O. Box 449, Princeton, N.J. 08542-0449.

The Star-Ledger: November 30, 2014

NAME: Butkus, Mary Rose (nee Tighe)

DATE OF DEATH: November 27, 2014