



# Rosemary T. Letonoff

JUL 11, 1937 - SEP 8, 2024



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# Rosemary T. Letonoff

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## Rosemary Letonoff, Devoted Mother and World-Traveler

Rosemary Thomas Letonoff who grew up in Wilmington and Rehoboth, returning to the resort town throughout her life, died peacefully in Lewes on September 8, 2024.

Rosemary was born on July 11, 1937, in the Panama Canal zone to Mary Govatos and Marvin Thomas, a career military man, who was killed during the second world war.

As a French major at Ladycliff College in Highland Falls, New York, Rosemary spent a year abroad at the Sorbonne in Paris, where she ended up being cast as a debutante in *The Reluctant Debutante* (1958), starring Rex Harrison and Sandra Dee. Watching this movie with her children and grandchildren was a source of great joy over the years.

Shortly after graduation, Rosemary married Victor Letonoff (Ladycliff abutted the West Point Campus, where they met and where Rosemary's father and older brother, Marvin, also graduated). Rosemary then spent twenty years as a military wife, raising her three sons, and teaching school with the Department of Defense Schools.

After her divorce from Victor and after her children were grown, she embarked on a new career with the DoD, serving as both a teacher and an administrator in Germany, Italy and Spain. These were decades of great adventure, with Rosemary traveling all over the world, often accompanied by her grown children and eventually their spouses.

While stationed in Germany during this time, she became a surrogate mother to two young women, Claudia, and Gabrielle Moldovan, who were refugees from Romania.



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Upon retirement in 2003 to the Tampa area to be close to her youngest son Lars and his family, Rosemary delved into a life-long passion and hobby: breeding and showing Italian Greyhounds and Chinese Cresteds, many of whom became national and international champions.

She enjoyed swimming, was a mean bridge player, and loved sitting on the Rehoboth Beach Boardwalk watching the crowds and eating a Kohr Brothers ice cream. But more than anything she loved travel, filling album upon album with photos of her adventures.

She is survived by her three sons: Victor Letonoff (Maribeth), Eric Letonoff (Amanda), and Lars Letonoff (Janice); by her five grandchildren: Gillian, Ted, Lucas, Jason, and Jude; and by sister-in-law (and best friend since the 10th grade) Marion Thomas.

A funeral service will be held at Lewes Presbyterian Church, 133 Kings Hwy, Lewes, DE 19958, on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at 2pm.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggest donations in Rosemary's memory to the Brandywine Valley SPCA, <https://bvspca.org/ways-to-give>.

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.



## Tribute Wall

**Rosemary T. Letonoff**

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CN

**Claudia Niederle** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

This tree is planted in Germany in Rosemary's memory. ❤️ It is a Himalayan cedar (Cedrus deodara "Pendula").

September 18 at 9:37 PM



CN

**Claudia Niederle** posted:

Wherever Rosemary was, there was for us like coming home. She gave us this benevolent feeling of being welcomed and loved. We are glad and grateful that she was part of our lives. We will miss her and we will always love her. Great memories comfort her loss. Sending prayers to the family from the "Romanian daughters" Gabriella and Claudia with their families 🙏

September 18 at 2:26 PM

CN

**Claudia Niederle** lit a candle in honor of Rosemary.

September 18 at 2:12 PM





**Claudia Niederle** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

September 18 at 9:37 PM





# Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Rosemary by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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