



Marlene Helen Oates

January 6, 1934 - April 12, 2026

Marlene Helen Oates, age 92, of Clearwater Beach, Maryland, passed away peacefully at home on April 12, 2026, of natural causes. She was surrounded by the love of the family she devoted her life to nurturing and protecting—and by her beloved cat, Oliver.

Marlene was born on January 6, 1934, in Baltimore, Maryland, to the late Woodrow Oakley and Elizabeth Schlauch Welsh, and was later raised alongside her stepfather, James S. Welsh. She grew up in Baltimore, where she met and married the love of her life, the late Marvin Linwood Oates Sr. Together, they built a life rooted in devotion and family and raised five children.

She was preceded in death by three of her children: Patricia Dean (Coney), David J. Oates, and Colleen Oates. She is survived by her children Marvin L. Oates Jr. (Joann), Laura E. Ehrman (late Wayne), and Richard L. Oates Sr.

Marlene was the proud grandmother of eight grandchildren: Christopher A. Dean; Lora Shannon Dean (Chris); Marvin L. Oates III; Samantha B. Milligan (Randall); Jennifer L. Ehrman; the late Richard L. Oates Jr.; Alisha Oates (Rick); and the late Robert L. Oates Sr. Her family continued to grow through nine treasured great-grandchildren: Anderson Traynham, Allison Oates, Autumn Milligan, Austin Milligan, Chloe Oates, Brian Yount, McKayla Oates,

Payton Oates, and Robert L. Oates Jr. (Cali). She was also blessed with two great-great-grandchildren, Kash Oates and Ava Oates.

She is additionally survived by her sister, Deborah Hilton (Chuck); her nephews, Chad Hilton and Timothy Hilton; her niece, Meghan Raistrick (Sean); great-niece Jordyn Raistrick; and great-nephew Jacob Raistrick.

Marlene leaves behind a legacy defined by her fierce spirit, deeply loving heart, boundless kindness, and countless selfless sacrifices. She found joy in simple pleasures—working on word search puzzles and sharing quiet, comforting moments with her cat, Oliver. Though her earthly journey has ended, the light she brought into the lives of all who knew her will shine on forever.

Tribute Wall

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“ Mom,
I knew this time was coming, but still hoped we had more quality time together. Your body was failing as well as your ability to do the little things you loved to do. You hung on for as long as you could but you knew as we all did, it was time for you to go to be with those that passed before you. I know you were trying to make sure I was okay to let you go, and even though I thought I told you it was okay if you wanted to see Baby Colleen for the first time, see David after all those years since he passed, see Patti, Ricky, Bobby, Wayne, Pop and many others who passed before you. I miss you, our FaceTime calls and the conversations we shared. I miss your smile, laughter and your words of wisdom. I miss everything about you and always will miss my Mother! Thank you for the life you gave me and the Love you showed, for I could not have asked for a better Mom! Have fun in Heaven, for you are my special Angel watching over all of us now. Your daughter Laura....As I would say many times in the recent past, "Do you know who you are talking to? And you would smile and say, "Of course I do, you're my daughter Laura!" Love you Mom.

Laura Ehrman - April 23 at 12:26 AM



Your mother was one of the sweetest ladies I ever had the wonderful pleasure of meeting! So vibrant! So loving! So unique! Melissa forgot to tell me and I always ask how Miss Marlene was doing... I was heartbroken when I heard on Saturday May 23 she had passed. My deepest condolences! Lifting you and yours up in mighty mighty prayer! Hugs!

Rebekah Malatt - May 25 at 11:15 AM