

Colleen Corazza James

Antique shop owner

Colleen Corazza James, 74, of Paxton, Mass., died peacefully Friday, Jan. 13, 2012, at home surrounded by her loving family. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Dr. Lewis P. James Jr., and her five children: son Paul and his wife Lisa James of Bristol, R.I.; daughter Anne and her husband Bill Kennerley of Burke, Va.; son Michael of Boston; daughter Cate and her husband Kevin Platt of Canton, Mass.; and daughter Sarah and her husband Sid Quilty of Roslindale, Mass. Colleen also leaves eight adored grandchildren: Will, Bridget, Andrew, Chris, Max, Lauren, Alexandra, and Maeve. She also leaves her sister-in-law Diane and her husband, Andy Cramarossa, and their children Nick, Jennifer, Margaret and Julia, her beloved uncle Germano and her niece, Rose Corazza.

Colleen was born in Raton, the daughter of the late Marie and Luigi Corazza. A coal miner's daughter, she was raised in the coal camps of Dawson. By intelligence, determination and pure grit, she went on to become a skilled nurse, training at Providence Hospital in Oakland, Calif. As a nurse, she first served with the Indian Health Service, setting up a hospital and tending to the needs of the Tohono O'odham Nation (Papago) in Sells, Arizona. Following her time with the Indian Health Service, she joined the US Army and was posted at the 98th General Hospital in Neubruke, Germany. It was there that she met her future husband, then serving as a pathologist with the U.S. Army. In 1965, they moved to the Worcester, Mass., area and began what would be a happy 46 years of marriage.

Colleen was a woman of many passions. An expert in Native American art, and a lover of antiques, she was the long time co-owner of Brimfield Acres North, an antique show and seasonal shop in Brimfield, Mass. She was a devoted gardener, avid reader of mystery novels, spoiler of her cats and grandchildren, and she loved to travel, especially to see her extended family in Pistoia and Treviso, Italy. A kind and modest woman, with a wonderful sense of humor, her love of people extended to a wide range of friends stretching coast to coast and across the oceans. But, most of all, Colleen was a wonderful mother and passionate grandmother. Her happiest hours were spent overseeing her extended family gathered around her table at Thanksgiving and Christmas or wandering her field during the Brimfield Antiques Show week.

She will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by her family and friends.

Calling hours for Colleen were held at the Caswell-King Funeral Home in Worcester Jan. 16. A celebration of her life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to National Relief Charities, which supports American Indian communities or to breast cancer research.

Source: Raton Range, Raton, NM, January 21, 2012