

## Rosalie Katherine Sullivan Ross

Rosalie Katherine Sullivan Ross died August 23, 2023 in Herndon, Virginia, a suburb of her longtime home, Washington, D.C. Born July 29, 1943, in Holyoke, Massachusetts, Rosalie arrived at MHC freshman year with Holyoke High classmates **Kathleen Bougère** and **Nancy Adelson McCutchan**. Holyoke's newspaper, the *Transcript-Telegram*, awarded Rosalie a three-year Minnie Ryan Dwight Scholarship granted to local students with high academic standing. Pearsons Hall became Rosalie's freshman year dorm where many of our class leaders like her started out. Her peers elected her chairperson of the student representative assembly, and class president in 1964-65 and 1965 to 1970.



ROSALIE KATHERINE SULLIVAN  
Political Science

Her friends remember her as being a very interesting and private person. Raised a Catholic, she attended Mass every Sunday. Her active political involvement and many political science courses led to her major in poli sci. As one of 26 classmates who received a Victoria Schuck Internship to Washington, D.C., she interned in the summer of 1964 with the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. She saw many political luminaries in the White House Seminars lecture series and met more political movers and shakers at the Amherst-Mount Holyoke Internship meetings.

**Bonnie Penney Ulrich** shares: “Rosalie, **Karen Bang-Jensen Zumwalt** and I rented a Georgetown house with three other college women. It was a great summer—we saw the Civil Rights law passed and saw/did so many things including a Bob Dylan and Joan Baez concert in the big D.C. park.” She also shared that Rosalie loved Italy, spoke Italian well and spent time there every year. She adored and drove Mercedes cars!

For a year after graduation, Rosalie worked for the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington, D.C., and then joined the Peace Corps volunteering to instruct teachers in Columbia, South America, on the use of television equipment. Columbia introduced her to the Spanish language, and that prompted her to spend time in Spain. Upon her return to Boston, she taught Spanish to inner-city children.

Rosalie received a Master in Spanish Literature from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D. C. After working for the Spanish Embassy there, she

decided to remain in the city to teach Black children Spanish. A newspaper interview\* with Rosalie revealed, “A particular source of pride to her were the children in her after-school creative dance class.” The same interview stated that “Leadership and intelligence have been Miss Sullivan’s hallmarks for years.” Rosalie returned to Catholic University, received a Ph.D. in Spanish Literature and became a lecturer.

Other employment included the National Endowment for the Humanities, Inter-American Development Bank Women’s Exchange and teacher of Spanish and English as a second language.

On July 29, 1987, Rosalie married Anthony “Tony” Ross, a civil engineer who helped design a subway system in Taipei, Taiwan. They lived there several years and visited other countries. Tony died of cancer before our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion. Rosalie is survived by her sister, Joan Patricia Sullivan Stolarz, a Massachusetts resident, and several cousins, three of whom are MHC graduates.

Rosalie sent in this submission for our 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion book, “I, Rosalie Sullivan Ross, just returned home from my three-mile daily run in D.C. and am happy to report I still enjoy life with its ups and downs.”

Sources:

Cousin: Hillary Sullivan Shivers, MHC ’85.

Holyoke High School classmates.

Mount Holyoke Archives & Special Collections; Deborah Richards, Head of Archives and Special Collections.

MHC ’65 classmates: Karen Kelly Becker, Kathleen Bougère, Pam Panczak Dougherty, Bonnie Penney Ulrich and Karen Bang-Jensen Zumwalt.

\*Holyoke *Transcript-Telegram*, June 24, 1974, interview and August 31, 1987, marriage announcement.

Posted: April 2025.