

Laura Marie O'Loughlin
Formerly of Lowell

LITTLETON -- Laura Marie O'Loughlin (nee Laura Morel) was born on November 11, 1917. Raised in a French Canadian community in Lowell, she went to French schools and churches and did not learn English until she was 16. But most who knew her had no idea she was bilingual because she had no accent speaking English.

During the depression she started working at the Educator Biscuit factory in Lowell. There she learned English and met John O'Loughlin. They fell in love, but her French Canadian father could not accept an Irishman as a son-in-low, so they eloped and married

in 1938.

The couple had two daughters, Catherine LaVoie (born 1939, deceased 2007) and Carol Brown (born 1942). Laura, a loving, funny and beautiful mother stayed at home until her daughters were in their teens. At that point she got a beautician's license and opened a small beauty shop which she ran for seven years. Those were some of her happiest years, getting to know so many of her Littleton neighbors. During this time she also took painting classes and produced numerous- and very skilled- landscapes, still lifes, and portraits. Laura had always been a lovely singer; she sang all day with the radio, charming her family with her sweet and melodious voice. After joining Saint Anne's choir in the 1950s she took classical voice lessons and became a talented soloist, singing at many weddings, funerals and other special occasions in Littleton and neighboring towns.

Laura was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in her late 80s and was cared for lovingly by her husband, John, until his death in 2011. At that time she moved to be near her daughter, Carol, in California. Her last years were peaceful. Her warm smile and sweet temperament made her the delight of the caregivers and nurses at Silverado Memory Care in Encinitas, CA. She charmed everyone who knew her, and she in turn was charmed by everyone- whether she knew who they were or not. She died peacefully in her sleep on October 12, 2013, after calling out her husband's name.

She is survived by her daughter, Carol Brown, seven grandchildren: Elizabeth Wambolt, Joseph LaVoie, Julie LaVoie, John LaVoie, Andrew

LaVoie, Jessica Sweedler, Blake Brown, Lillian Brown, and seven great-grandchildren.

O'LOUGHLIN -- A funeral Mass will be celebrated at St Anne's Church in Littleton at 10 am on Friday, July 25. There will be a short reception in the parish hall immediately following the mass.

Laura's ashes will be buried in Westlawn Cemetery in Littleton, next to her husband of 70 years.

Published in Lowell Sun on July 20, 2014