



# Chere A. Riordan

NOV 8, 1947 - FEB 14, 2025



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**WATSON**  
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORIUM

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## **Chere A. Riordan**

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**C**here A. Riordan, a devoted public servant, beloved matriarch, and cherished friend, passed away peacefully at home on Friday, February 14, 2025, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Born on November 8, 1947, in Ridley Park, she was raised in Woodlyn, Pennsylvania.

A graduate of Ridley Township Senior High School in 1965, Chere pursued her passion for helping others by earning her Licensed Practical Nurse certification from Chester-Upland School of Practical Nursing. She later retired from the State of Delaware, having dedicated her career to serving her community.

Chere's commitment to volunteerism was an inspiration to all who knew her. She gave tirelessly of her time and talents, serving in various capacities, including Mid Sussex Rescue Squad, where she served as President, Board Member, Ambulance Attendant, and EMT for an incredible 46 years, 3 months, and 7 days. In recognition of her dedication, she was awarded Life Membership; Auxiliary of the Indian River Volunteer Fire Company, where she served as Vice President and earned Life Membership for 18 years, 1 month, and 15 days of service; and Indian River Volunteer Fire Company, where she was certified as a Delaware Firefighter I, serving 25 years, 7 months, and 7 days in roles such as Assistant Secretary, Assistant Chaplain, Chairperson of the Fund Drive Committee, and Member of the Critical Incident Stress Management Team.

Chere's unwavering dedication to the Delaware Fire Service was a beacon of inspiration, leaving a lasting impact on those she worked alongside.

Above all, Chere cherished her family. She is survived by her husband, Edward Riordan, Sr., and their children, Edward, Jr. (Holly), Monica, and special daughter Kristie Layton. She was a devoted grandmother to Kaitlynn Riordan, Christyn Riordan, Colyn Riordan, Izabella LaTorre, and Savannah Reed, and a proud great-grandmother to nine great-grandchildren.



## Obituary

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She is also survived by her sisters, Susan Messick of Millsboro, Barbara Layton of Lewes, and Deborah Miller of Georgetown, as well as her brothers, Raymond Miller, Stephen Miller, and Patrick Miller, all of Millsboro. Chere leaves behind numerous other beloved family members and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Dolores Miller, and grandparents, Chester and Pearl Goudy.

Chere's life was a testament to the profound difference one person can make by volunteering. Her unwavering dedication, kindness, and love will forever inspire those who knew her, especially the grandchildren she so deeply adored. She will be dearly missed and fondly remembered by all whose lives she touched.

A funeral service will be held on Friday, February 28, 2025, at 11am at Watson Funeral Home and Crematorium in Millsboro, DE, with a viewing from 10-11am prior to the start of the service. Interment will be held at Millsboro Cemetery immediately following the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her honor to the Boys & Girls Club of Oak Orchard-Riverdale, 31550 Oak Orchard Road, Millsboro, DE 19966.



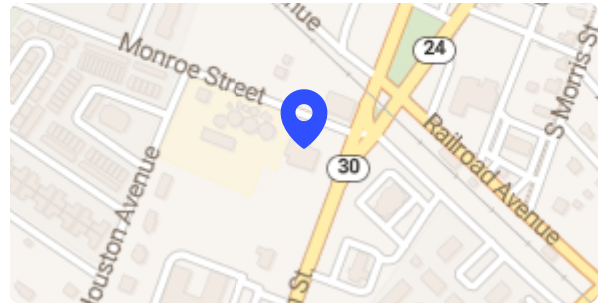
# Events

**Chere A. Riordan**

NOV 8, 1947 - FEB 14, 2025

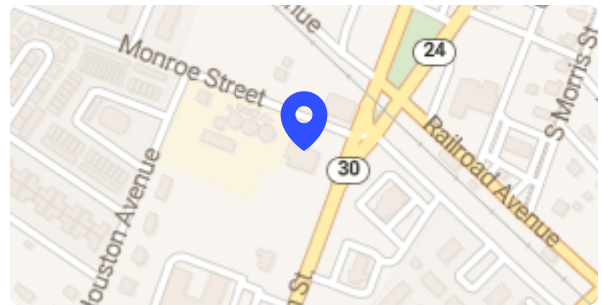
## Viewing

- Friday**, February 28, 2025
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM ET
- Watson Funeral Home & Crematorium**  
211 South Washington St., Millsboro DE 19966



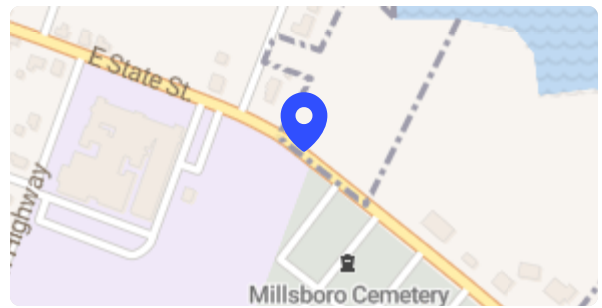
## Funeral Service

- Friday**, February 28, 2025
- 11:00 AM ET
- Watson Funeral Home & Crematorium**  
211 South Washington St., Millsboro DE 19966



## Cemetery Details

- Millsboro Cemetery**  
E. State St., Millsboro DE 19966





# Tribute Wall

**Chere A. Riordan**  
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**Monica Riordan** posted:

I was having a hard time trying to put all my feelings into words. My mother has always been a constant in my life and now there is an emptiness. Her and I certainly had our disagreements and didn't always see eye to eye but I knew she was always there for me. She was there to help me with Bella when times were tough and I never had to worry that Bella was safe and taken care of no matter what. Her and Bella went to Church every Sunday from the time she was an infant that was their thing. My mom was tough at times and head strong but her heart was caring and kind. She went out of her way for others that needed it. She was a leader in the community from being a first responder, helping out the Boys & Girls club, to being head Usher at LNUMC for 25 years. She would give you a ride to practice, put money on your lunch account , or cheer you on from Her spot at the SCHS football games. She would show up for you sometimes when nobody could. To say that her presence will be missed is an understatement. When she was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer it was devastating. She didn't understand how it could happen to her and I guess it wasn't for us to question the why's but she never stopped fighting. I was honored to be by her side and take care of her. She was determined to beat this dease and she was winning. Unfortunately an infection invaded her body and no matter how hard she tried to regain her health it was just too much for body to overcome. She was in a trial program at Jefferson for the cancer and I truly believe that it was working and because of her bravery hopefully it will help others to beat it. I will treasure the time we had together from vacations to barbecues to Holidays that she always all out for the kids to the last months of her journey. Her (great) grandchildren were her world and that's why she fought so hard to be there for them but God had other plans for her. Now she will be their Guardian Angel to watch over them through their lives and continue to be their biggest Cheerleader. I miss her so much and don't know how to not have a mother. She is free from the pain now and with her grandparents that she loved so much too. I love you Mother! Thank you for all the lessons you taught me and I continue to learn as I see how much she impacted so many other lives. I can only try my best to follow in her footsteps and live her legacy to the fullest. Rest In Peace Memom ♡

February 27 at 3:17 AM



**Anonymous** sent an Arrive in Style to the Riordan family.



February 25 at 2:45 PM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Chere.



February 25 at 2:45 PM



# Tribute Wall

**Chere A. Riordan**  
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**Susan W.** sent a Beautiful Heart Bouquet to the Riordan family.

February 23 at 12:00 PM



**Susan W.** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Chere.

February 23 at 12:00 PM



**Anonymous** sent a Beautiful Dreams to the Riordan family.

February 23 at 4:58 AM



**Anonymous** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Chere.

February 23 at 4:58 AM



**Anonymous** sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Riordan family.

February 20 at 2:03 PM





# Tribute Wall

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**Judy Smyk** posted:

Monica, Steve and I are so sorry for this huge loss. Losing a parent brings so many emotions and sadness. We have lots of funny memories of your mom, specially from our "teenage" years. You and your FAMILY are in our hearts and prayers. Love you all, Judy and Steve Smyk

February 20 at 1:38 PM



**Monica Riordan** February 21 at 4:15 PM

Thank you and miss you both!



**Love, Your B&G Club Food Program Family** sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Riordan family.



February 20 at 7:11 AM



**Love, Your B&G Club Food Program Family** planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Chere.



February 20 at 7:11 AM



**Holly** lit a candle in honor of Chere.

Mom(Memom),Your generous heart is forever imprinted on your family, friends and anyone who was blessed with your helping hands!In these last days, we never gave up hope that our gracious God would give us one more "last chance" with you as He was victorious in giving us many more days than science said you should have.

As prayers went up, the numbers gauging your battle fell! As treatments surged within you, we watched you valiantly rise to the challenge of beating what expectations most would have!Although we rarely saw eye to eye, we always saw heart to heart! As we see the pain in the eyes of all who loved you, we wish there was something we could do to make it easier for them. So, we going to do our best to make your life celebration the best remembrance of you!Our love forever and always,Eddie & Holly(and Noah too!)



February 19 at 4:23 PM



## Tribute Wall

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**Patrick** posted:

Chere –To my oldest sister -- Our hearts and families are broken! We know that with your passing you are in a better place with no more suffering, and you leave us to carry-on with memories of you to treasure hereafter.As we gather to facilitate arrangements and celebrate your life, I want to say. "... that we all may have had our differences both good and bad; however, there was never a moment that one did not know how much we meant to each other..." As we dealt with uncomfortable issues, it was never spoken, but we each knew that we were family above all else.Your spirit and laughter will live on in our memories and hearts forever bringing us comfort until we meet again. The bond and love we shared can never be broken, even though you are no longer here! As I write these thoughts on behalf of all our siblings - you will always be remembered, and you will always be our oldest sister who attempted to guide us!With love and sorrow, Patrick

February 19 at 9:41 AM



**Holly** February 19 at 4:15 PM

Mom(Memom),Your generous heart is forever imprinted on your family, friends and anyone who was blessed with your helping hands!In these last days, we never gave up hope that our gracious God would give us one more "last chance" with you as He was victorious in giving us many more days than science said you should have. As prayers went up, the numbers gauging your battle fell! As treatments surged within you, we watched you valiantly rise to the challenge of beating what expectations most would have!Although we rarely saw eye to eye, we always saw heart to heart! As we see the pain in the eyes of all who loved you, we wish there was something we could do to make it easier for them. So, we going to do our best to make your life celebration the best remembrance of you!Our love forever and always,Eddie & Holly(and Noah too!)



# Tribute Wall

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**Raymond Johnson** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



On behalf of the Mid Sussex Rescue Squad, we hereby express our utmost appreciation for your volunteerism, dedication, and professionalism while representing us in many official capacities over the years. As President, your steadfast leadership propelled our organization forward! Your devotion to the greater community good is an inspiration to all that follow. Thank you for your service! God Bless and may you "Rest in Eternal Peace." Thank you for your service!

February 19 at 8:32 AM



**Monica Riordan** February 21 at 4:27 PM

RayMy dad, Bella and I thank you for the delicious edible arrangement. We appreciate the thoughtful kindness shown our family.Monica Bella and Ed



**Holly** February 19 at 4:21 PM

Ray,Please extend our thank you to Mid-Sussex for the wonderful edible arrangement. It was very thoughtful and truly appreciated!Eddie & Holly



**Tiffany Cowley** lit a candle in honor of Chere.

She was always so welcoming, letting my Legen come and swim and he was always treated like family, coming to tball games with her pup by her side! Grateful, she will be deeply missed.



February 19 at 6:55 AM



**Monica Riordan** sent a virtual gift in honor of Chere.



February 19 at 5:04 AM



**Monica Riordan** lit a candle in honor of Chere.



February 19 at 5:03 AM



**Beth Redden** February 19 at 8:46 AM

Monica, I am so sorry about your Mom! You are in my thoughts and prayers! Beth Truitt Redden



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**Peggi Avanzato** posted:

Chere had a heart of gold. Always there to lend a helping hand. She was also Dedicated to the Indian Town Farms Property Owners association. She was a President or Vice President for more than 25 years, and even when she got sick she offered to do whatever she could to help the association. Chere, you will be missed.

February 19 at 4:06 AM



**Indian River Vfc** shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

On behalf of the Indian River Volunteer Fire Company, we hereby extend our utmost appreciation for your volunteerism and professional diligence representing us in many official capacities over the years. We are grateful for your participation on various committees. Your devotion and dedication to the residents of our community and fire district are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your service! God Bless and Rest in Peace.



February 18 at 6:57 PM



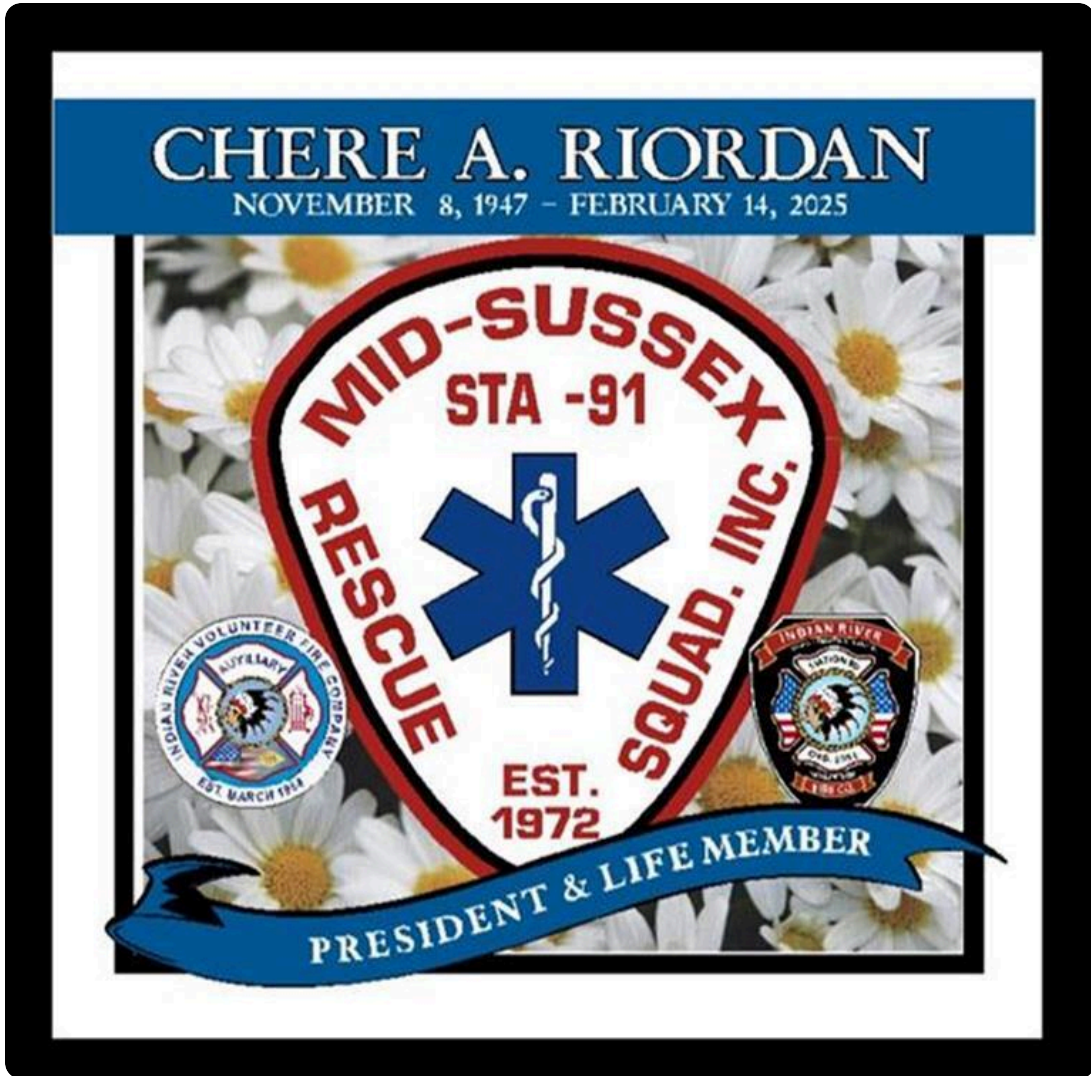
**Media**

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Raymond Johnson shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 19 at 8:32 AM



Mid Sussex Rescue Squad



Indian River Vfc shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

February 18 at 6:57 PM



Indian River VFC



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



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