

Audrey L. Carabba, affectionately known as "Miss America" to many, passed away peacefully on September 14, 2024, at the age of 77, surrounded by her loving family and close friends.

Audrey was born on November 26, 1946, in Gardner, MA, to the late Albert Carabba and Rita (LaBonte) LaRoche. She is survived by her two children: Michael J. Farrow and his partner Steven of Worcester and Kim L. Landry, with whom she lived; her two grandsons, Neil and Trevor Landry, both of Gardner, and her three brothers: John Carabba and his wife Toni of Forest Grove, Oregon, Bruce Garvick and his wife Cherie of Gardner, and Brian LaRoche and his wife Ann-Mari of Saco, Maine. Audrey also leaves behind her dear friend, Eva Laraba of Gardner, the father of her children, Michael F. Farrow of Lancaster, as well as many nieces, nephews, cousins, friends and her dedicated caregiver in her final months Mandy Bommarito.

She was predeceased by her son, Brian K. Farrow; her brother, Robert Carabba; and her two stepfathers, Henry Garvick and Ronnie LaRoche.

As a baby, Audrey suffered a stroke and was left to deal with the struggles of Grand Mall Epilepsy and the effects it would take on her life. She was not allowed to finish school and removed before finishing elementary school. Unable to obtain a driver's license or develop a career.

Despite Audrey's disabilities, she didn't give up! She taught herself everything she needed to know to get through life's challenges. She was known for her fearless independence, fiery spirit, and straight-to-the-point nature. Sassy, strong-willed, and sometimes stubborn, she never hesitated to speak her mind—loud enough for the entire room (and likely the neighbors) to hear. Yet beneath her bold exterior, she had a heart full of compassion, always thoughtful and wanting to help others.

Audrey was a complex woman, full of different traits and attributes, but it was this very mix that made her so uniquely loved by those around her.

She loved listening to music, playing cards, and dancing—activities that brought her great joy and added to her vibrant personality.

As a mother, Audrey embodied unconditional love, strength, and generosity. She dedicated her life to raising her children and never hesitated to make sacrifices for their well-being. These qualities shown even brighter with her grandsons, who meant the world to her. Audrey provided her family with all the love, comfort, hospitality, humor, and stability they could ever ask for, and in return, she was cherished deeply. She was loved by many and adored by those fortunate enough to know her closely.

Though she will be deeply missed, her presence will remain in the memories and hearts of those who loved her. There will forever be an empty chair during holidays and special occasions where a great woman once sat. But through the grace of God, we know we will reunite with her one day. Until then, her spirit lives on in our hearts and memories.

We love you, Mom.

Calling hours will be on Thursday, September 19th from 4-7 pm in Audrey's Home, 60 Prospect St., Gardner. A Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Friday, September 20th at 11 a.m. in Annunciation Parish at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church, 135 Nichols St., Gardner. Funeral attendees are asked to go directly to the church on Friday morning. Interment will follow in Saint John's Cemetery, Gardner. MERCADANTE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL, 370 Plantation St., Worcester is honored to be assisting the family with arrangements.

*Just knowing that in countless ways our family and our friends are with us makes this easier. Thank you for the outpouring of love and support and your many kind expressions of sympathy as we gather to honor, remember, and celebrate Audrey's Life*



## FUNERAL SERVICE FOR



*Audrey L. Carabba*  
*"Miss America"*

NOVEMBER 26, 1946 - SEPTEMBER 14, 2024

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2024, 11:00 AM  
ANNUNCIATION PARISH AT  
OUR LADY OF THE HOLY ROSARY CHURCH,  
135 NICHOLS ST., GARDNER

## Greeting

The Church gathers today to celebrate Christ's saving gift of eternal life for Audrey. We gather as a family to ask God for comfort and strength as we commend hers into the loving arms of Jesus Christ. It is in this faith that we invite you to be united with us in song and prayer.

## Mass of Christian Burial

11:00 AM, September 20, 2024

Annunciation Parish at Our Lady of the Holy Rosary Church

### Celebrant

Fr. Luke Johnson

### Cantor

Paul Cormier

### Organist

Sharon Sawtell

### Pallbearers

Neil Landry

Rob Hamel

Jordan Harper

Trevor Landry

Chris Bommarito

Steven Lubitz

### Placing Of The Pall

Michael J. Farrow & Kim Landry

### Interment

Saint John Cemetery, Gardner, MA

Section M, Lot 56, Center grave

Entrance Hymn ..... "Precious Lord"

## Liturgy of the Word

First Reading ..... Wisdom 3:1-6,9, Eva Laraba

Responsorial Psalm ..... Psalm 25: "To You O Lord"

Second Reading ..... Revelations 21:1-5,6-7, Cherie Garvick

## Liturgy of the Eucharist

Preparation Hymn ..... "Hail Mary, Gentle Women"

The Presentation of the Gifts ..... Bruce Garvick & Brian LaRoche

Communion Hymn ..... "One Bread, One Body"

## Rite of Commendation

Song of Farewell ..... "May the Angels Be Your Guide"

Closing Hymn ..... "On Eagles Wings"

