

Roseann Anderson:

A Mighty Heart in a Petite Package

2024 Spiritus Award Benefit Honoree



Roseann Anderson is a remarkable woman known for her unwavering faith, boundless compassion, and profound dedication to her family and to serving her community, particularly its underserved children. With a quick wit, intellectual curiosity, and a heart full of grace, she embodies the essence of generosity, mentorship, and leadership.

Roseann married Bruce Anderson on November 26, 1960, and shared 57 wonderful years together, embodying the true essence of partnership and love. According to her son Douglas “their relationship was a testament to the adage of Father Ted Hesburgh at Notre Dame: “The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.” Bruce was not just her husband; he was her unwavering supporter, collaborator, and the love of her life. His fingerprints could be found on much of Roseann’s work, from her endeavors with the Sisters of Social Service to her involvement with numerous charitable organizations. He was her rock, her confidant, and her fellow traveler through life’s highs and lows. We know for certain that Bruce is watching down from heaven on all of us, so proud of his beautiful wife, Roseann.

As mother to Paul and Douglas, Roseann exemplifies dedication and selflessness. And that love extends to her daughters-in-law, Elizabeth and Roslyn, and her six beloved grandchildren: Henry, Jack, Charlotte, Lucy, Sally, and Rex. Family is paramount to Roseann, and her devotion is never-ending. As a friend, Roseann’s warmth and companionship are cherished by all who have the privilege of knowing her. Her generosity knows no bounds, and her graceful presence enriches every gathering.

Philanthropy and Leadership

Roseann’s commitment to philanthropy and service is unparalleled. She has been a driving force behind numerous initiatives aimed at uplifting those in need. As one of the original chairs of the “Bach to Broadway” annual fundraiser for Saint Andrew Church, she demonstrated her leadership and organizational skills while supporting her beloved Parish in Pasadena.

Roseann’s community involvement spans decades and includes her children’s schools, Mayfield Junior School and Loyola High School, and the Christ Child Society of Pasadena, where she served in various capacities, including president. Notably, as president of the National Christ Child Society, Roseann elevated the organization by bringing in professional women to enhance its expertise and operations. Her leadership was instrumental in initiating the cause of canonization for Mary Virginia Merrick, the society’s founder. For her dedication and commitment, Roseann received the Mary Virginia Merrick award, Christ Child Society’s most prestigious honor, named after its founder. Roseann’s dedication to the Social Service Auxiliary, where she has served as past president and continues to chair the Endowment Committee, which highlights her commitment to making a lasting impact on the lives of others. Additionally, her historic presidency at the Valley Hunt Club as the first woman president is a testament to her trailblazing spirit and leadership abilities.

Life Lessons and Special Memories

Roseann’s life is a testament to the values of compassion, family, and loyalty. She imparts invaluable lessons, urging others to look for those in need and to be there for them. Family holds a special place in Roseann’s heart, and she exemplifies the importance of familial bonds in every aspect of her life. Among the special memories cherished by those who know her are her selfless acts of care for the elderly and sick, her willingness to offer support to her family, and her dedication to the causes she believes in. Whether it’s caring for her grandchild or committing herself wholeheartedly to the organizations she serves, Roseann’s presence leaves an indelible mark on the lives she touches. In every role she undertakes, Roseann’s passion, dedication, and compassion shine brightly, inspiring others to follow in her footsteps and make a difference in the world.