Marie Short, passed away at home on July 27, 2023. Marie was born at home in East Newark, NJ to parents, Isabelle (nee Graham) and Michael Cunningham. She spent her childhood in Kearny, Harrison, and Jersey City, where she graduated from Dickinson High School. During World War II, she briefly lived in Hawaii. She returned to the mainland, met her husband, Edward Short, and moved to Edison, where she lived for the last 73 years.

She worked for nearly 25 years at Rutgers University in Piscataway, both for the Dean’s Office of Livingston College and for the Department of Urban Studies and Community Health. Always loving to learn, she attended classes at University College and worked towards a degree in Communication. After retirement, she became a member of the Rutgers Silver Knights.

A devout Catholic, Marie was a founding member of St. Matthew the Apostle Church in Edison. She devoted much of her life to the Blessed Mother, serving on the board of the Rosary Altar Society in multiple positions, most notably as its President for four different terms. She most enjoyed planning various trips and fundraising events for the organization, finding new places to go and new things to do. She was also a member of the church’s Sacristy Guild and the school’s PTA.

Marie’s faith was exemplified through her service to the church and to others. She was a woman of compassion, who volunteered with the Haven Hospice Program at JFK University Medical Center, Edison. She also worked in the Volunteer Department there, as well as administering Reiki to patients in need. She volunteered with Parker at Stonegate, Highland Park, and Parker at Somerset, visiting and praying with the residents, many of whom became friends.

She had a lifelong interest in the medical field, always educating herself on the latest ways to improve one’s health and she implemented many of them into her daily routine. She had other interests as well: she walked, practiced Tai Chi, crocheted, joined the Red Hat Society, watched Jeopardy, played Scrabble and completed countless crossword puzzles…and she danced. She loved to dance, and was a member of both the Edison and Metuchen Senior Center Line Dancers.

Marie will be remembered by her family and friends as a quiet woman of integrity, who led by example. She was a fiercely independent and strong woman, and a true matriarch of the family. She was totally devoted to her family, and her love for them showed no boundaries.

She is survived by her four children and two sons-in-law: Daniel, Maureen, Eileen Hudgins (Martin) and Joan (Joseph Murray), her grandchildren: Danielle Short and Sean Hudgins, and her great-granddaughter, Gabrielle Short. She was predeceased by her parents, her husband, her brother, James Cunningham and her grandson, Steven Hudgins.

Visitation will be on Monday, July 31, 2023 at 9:00 am –10:15 am at the Costello-Runyon Funeral Home, 568 Middlesex Ave (Route 27), Metuchen, followed by a Mass of Christian burial at St. Matthew’s in Edison at 11:00 am.

Interment will take place at Resurrection Cemetery in Piscataway.

For of all sad words of tongue or pen, the saddest are these: It might have been.