

Marie Angela Brown

1943 ~ 2025

Marie Angela Brown passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 81.

Marie was born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. In June 1987, she moved with her husband and family from New York City to Sedona, Arizona — a place they had loved and had owned property in since 1977. Although they planned to retire, Marie soon became an active and passionate member of the Sedona community.

In February 1988, just a month after Sedona was officially incorporated, Marie became the city's first employee. She served as the first city clerk and was later promoted to Director of Community Services. Marie contributed significantly to Sedona's development and organization by supporting the city's first City Council election, aiding in the formation of the planning and zoning commission, and initiating community programs and holiday events. Marie was instrumental in shaping Sedona's early identity, spearheading the development of Parks and Recreation and its trail systems, and collaborating closely with the League of Cities and Towns for Sedona's incorporation. Alongside former Mayor Ivan Finley, she was pivotal in preserving Posse Grounds Park for the community. Marie was the driving force behind Sedona's incorporation, skillfully navigating the complexities of working with two counties and the State of Arizona.

Marie's commitment to service and the joy she found in it extended far beyond her second retirement. She volunteered with the Sedona Volunteer Park Rangers, Sedona Community Center Meal Programs, Friends of the Library, Toys for Tots, Sedona Community Supper, St. John Vianney Music Ministry, and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

She will be remembered for her love of books, Italian cooking, her adventurous spirit in travel, her quiet joy in birdwatching, and her cat, Scooter. Marie had a special way of making people feel welcome, always greeting others with a sparkle in her eye and a warm, genuine smile.

Marie was preceded in death by her husband, James T. Brown, and her sister, Nancy Cesarani. She is survived by her two sons, Sean and Billy Harvey (née Matthew), and a wide circle of friends and community members who cherished her.

A memorial service to celebrate her life will be held on **Friday, May 30, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at St. John Vianney Church, 180 St. John Vianney Lane, Sedona.**

Instead of flowers, please consider a donation in Marie's honor:

Sedona Community Center, Meal Programs, 2615 Melody Ln, Sedona, AZ 86336

St. Vincent de Paul, St. John Vianney Conference, P.O. Box 612, Sedona, AZ 86339-0612