



## Jean C. Arena

April 1, 2023

Jean C. Arena passed away April 1 at The Glenridge in Sarasota at the age of 102. She was born and raised in Rochester, NY and retired to Sarasota.

When her mother died at an early age, Jean dropped out of school to care for her younger sister and brothers. She later graduated high school and enrolled in a score of college classes. In 1941 as the US prepared for WW II, Jean left her family home to follow her sister who was working for the Navy Dept. in Washington DC.

Jean inspired family members and her many friends as a pioneering woman in the workplace. During her long career at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Jean developed and negotiated contracts for feasibility studies for scientific experiments, computer expertise, and instruments for use in the Space Shuttle. As one of the few senior women in the procurement field at NASA, and previously at what is now the Eaton Corp, Jean had to work harder than her male counterparts.

She was a life-long learner, world traveler, keeper of the family flame, social organizer and generous supporter of relatives and others in need.

Jean traveled throughout the US, Europe, Africa, and the South Pacific. Her many hobbies included ice skating, swimming, the organ, knitting, cooking,

gardening – and especially reading.

In addition to volunteering at hospitals and senior centers in Sarasota, Jean helped organize social events for the Tallywood community and TED talks at The Glenridge, where she resided since 2015. She was a generous contributor to Catholic charities and those in need.

The last of seven siblings, Jean is the beloved aunt to many nieces and nephews and their children. They honor her memory and her enduring legacy.

Family and friends are invited to a Funeral Mass at St. Martha's Catholic Church on Monday May 15 at 2 PM.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

MAY 15. 2:00 PM.

St. Martha Catholic Church  
200 N. Orange Ave  
Sarasota, FL