



## Margaret Cole Banko

February 14, 2026

Margaret nee Grencer (Cole) Banko passed away peacefully at 100, on February 14, 2026, at Legacy Place Cottages, in Allentown, where she resided for 12 years. Her nieces were by her side at the time of her death. She is the last of her generation in the family. Her parents were John (d. 1970) and Mary (Dobay) Grencer (d. 1948) of Bethlehem PA.

She dedicated her life to her God Jehovah and volunteered her time to help people learn about him. In the Summer of 1946, she was baptized as one of Jehovah's Witnesses.

In 1956 she married her first husband James Cole. They were happily married for 38 years, until his sudden death, in 1994. They were graduates of Watchtower Gilead School for Missionaries. Together, they volunteered their time in the full-time ministry in New York, South Dakota and then back to Jim's home state of Idaho.

She returned to Pennsylvania in 1996 to marry an old childhood friend, Joseph Banko, of Allentown. She was happily married to Joe for 15 years, until his death. They traveled every year to Europe.

Predeceased by her twin sister, Helen Balint, sisters Mary Breasley, Annie Marion and Anna (Anka) Thornton and brothers Michael Dolenich, Johnny,

George and Andrew Grencer. She is survived by nieces and nephews.

Arrangements will be made privately, by the J.S. Burkholder Funeral Home, Allentown.

We thank Legacy Place Cottages and the Hospice staff for lovingly caring for and supporting her. We look forward to the time when our dead loved ones will hear Jesus voice and be resurrected back to their loved ones on the earth. (John 11:25; Matthew 22:31, 32)

Any donations may be made to: Christian Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses, Attn: Donor Support, 900 Red Mills Rd, Walkill, NY 12589-5200 or Jah-Jireh Homes of America (Legacy Place Cottages), 2051 Bevin Dr, Allentown, PA 18103.

# Cemetery Details

## **Union Cemetery of Hellertown**

Hellertown, PA 18055

# Tribute Wall

DC

“ Marge was such a kind, giving person. After our son was born, Jim and Marge stayed with us for a week while Marge ran the household. What a blessing she was. We will welcome her back soon.

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**Denise Cole** - February 23 at 10:36 PM

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“ 5 files added to the album margaret



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**Andrea Grencer** - February 20 at 11:56 AM