

JOSEPHINE CLEVELAND BURLINGTON— Josephine “Jo” Cleveland, 85, died on Easter Sunday in Fletcher Allen Health Care due to cardiac complications. Born May 16, 1921, in Mamaroneck, N.Y., she was the daughter of Theodore and Ernestine (Beck) Brehmer. She married Charles F. Cleveland on Nov. 7, 1947, and was predeceased by him on June 16, 1980. Jo was known for her life of giving service and for her sense of humor. She loved helping others and received many awards and certificates for her volunteer service. She gave service through many organizations over the years, including the Retired Senior Volunteer Program both in New York State and, since 1986, in Burlington. She was actively involved with the Champlain Senior Center as a participant and volunteer in many capacities for 17 years and was a strong supporter for the Center and advocate for seniors. She found her singing voice with the Center's Chorus and she loved being “Grandma Jo” to the children at The Children's Space. She looked forward to her monthly adventures at the Casino in Montreal. Jo engaged people wherever she went and tried to make life easier and lighter for others. Many people will remember her generous and unexpected gifts of cookies that she baked and gave away just to brighten another's day and the jokes she passed along to make others smile. Her generosity, strength and humor will be missed by family and friends. She is survived by her daughter, Maureen (Grover) ClevelandRyan and her son-in-law, Frank Ryan of Burlington, her son and daughter-in-law, Patrick and Linda Cleveland of Plattsburgh, N.Y., her son, Michael Cleveland of California, and her dear friend, Fred Reed of Burlington. In addition to her husband, Charles, she was predeceased by her beloved friend, Joe McGrath of Burlington. It was her wish to have no service and no hours for viewing. The Champlain Senior Center will, however, have an informal memorial sharing cookies and punch and stories of Jo on Friday, April 13, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in her honor. In lieu of flowers, Jo requested that contributions be made to the Champlain Senior Center, 241 N. Winooski Avenue, Burlington.