



Ellen M. McGill

July 13, 2023

Ellen M. (Shiner) McGill, 80, of Saunderstown, RI died peacefully in the morning hours of July 13th.

Born in Washington, D.C. she was the daughter of the late Carl D. and Elizabeth (Welsh) Shiner.

She moved to RI with her family in her younger years and was raised there where she married and raised her family. Ellen pursued a career in the banking industry initially but found her calling as an ESL teacher helping instruct students in the English language which lead her to Guatemala and Japan to teach amongst other places.

She was a prolific sailor, writer, poet, bird watcher, world traveller and volunteer at the Sharing Locker.

Ellen leaves behind her two children, Julie A. Brunelle (William) of Warwick and Brian H. Otrando (Michaela) of Cumberland; her brother David Shiner of CA; 3 grandchildren, Chris Costa, Artie Brunelle and Nathan Otrando. She was predeceased by her sister Anita H. Weston and granddaughter Emily H. Otrando.

Visitation will be held at Winfield and Sons Funeral home, 571 West

Greenville Road in Scituate, RI Wednesday July 26th from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. followed by a Memorial Service at 12:00 p.m. Burial will follow at Highland Memorial Park Cemetery in Johnston, RI. Donations made in her honor may be made to the Audubon Society of RI. <https://support.asri.org/campaign/donate-to-audubon/c291579>

Cemetery Details

Highland Memorial Park Cemetery

Rhode Island Avenue
Johnston, RI 02919

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 26. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Winfield & Sons Funeral Home and Crematory
571 West Greenville Road (Route 116)
Scituate, RI 02857
(401) 647-5421

Memorial Service

JUL 26. 12:00 PM (ET)

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571 West Greenville Road (Route 116)
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(401) 647-5421

Tribute Wall

SW

“ I met Ellen as a crew member on the Barefoot ,we sailed across the ocean in 1977. She was the perfect crew member, friendly, helpful always ready to solve a problem. So gracious. She saved my sea sick stomach during a 3 day gale by encouraging me to eat the instant mashed potatoes, veggie medley and peas dinner we ate on the floor of the cabin. My thoughts and prayers go out to you, her family members, Julie you were another great crew member. May Ellen rest in peace.

Susan Thorpe Waterman - May 06 at 07:46 PM

AO

“ Annie Olivo-Champagne lit a candle in memory of Ellen M. McGill



Annie Olivo-Champagne - July 26, 2023 at 12:20 PM

JB

Thank you ❤️

Julie Brunelle - July 27, 2023 at 08:06 AM

SS

“ Grammy Ellen will be missed by so many. I remember meeting her for the first time and she welcomed me into her family like I was one of her own. As I had children, she welcomed them in and loved them like her own grandchildren. I’m not sure that anyone had a bigger heart or was a better listener than her. She will be missed by many, but especially us.

Love, Stephanie, Morgan, and Peyton ❤️

Stephanie Sleister - July 26, 2023 at 10:02 AM

NT

“ Julie and family , I'm so sorry. Ellen was so kind and I remember all the stories of her trips and bird watching. Shes known me since I was young. Love you Julie and always here. RIP ELLEN. My deepest condolences

Nicole Tiberi - July 25, 2023 at 10:34 AM

BM

“ Ellen was one of my first real friends here in RI. A caring neighbor, tenacious activist, always warm, kind, and compassionate. I respect everything about her - her intelligence and commitment to making the world a better place, whether through environmentalism or around issues of social Justice. To her family - she loved and enjoyed you all so much, spoke of you with such pride. Ellen, my friend, I'll miss you very much. Rest in peace. ❤️🙏❤️
— Barbara Mariconda

Barbara Mariconda - July 21, 2023 at 08:37 AM



“ Ellen was, and I believe still is, a loyal, loving, and trusted friend. Rarely does one meet such an honest person, living a deeply thoughtful life with such integrity. I will miss you, Ellen. May our tears swell the river that carries you home.

Susan Letendre - July 21, 2023 at 08:20 AM

AC

“ There are so many things I will miss about Ellen. She was, and remains a model and inspiration for me. Her compassion and kindness were central to who she was, and she was courageous in her will to do right by others. What a special person to have known. My deepest sympathy to her family but may you be comforted by your memories and the knowledge that the world is a better place because she was in it.

Amy Crawford - July 21, 2023 at 08:19 AM

NS

“ Ellen was an amazing person who will be sadly missed but not forgotten. As an educator Ellen valued and exemplified life-long learning and was often taking a stand on issues important to her. In the fairly recent past, after doing her usual thorough research, she mobilized her neighborhood to protest the stench, possibly toxic, generated by a nearby factory. Her courage was tremendous.

Nicholas Schmader

Nicholas Schmader - July 19, 2023 at 02:27 PM

DW

“ Dear Brian and Julie, your Mom was truly a special lady and such a good neighbor and friend. She was one of those people who left footprints on my heart and as each one of us moved over the years I so enjoyed keeping in touch when we were able to reconnect. Smart, kind, compassionate, involved in her communities, she gave of herself freely to advocate for many causes. While she had a peaceful nature about her she had more drive energy to get things done than I ever did and I looked up to her for that. She was a blessing in my life. Heartfelt condolences to you both and to your families for your loss. Hugs ❤️ Diane

Diane Wright - July 19, 2023 at 08:15 AM

JP

“ Brian, Julie and family you have my heartfelt sympathy in the sudden loss of your mom. She was so proud of you and loved spending time with you. Her love of nature gave her happiness and peace. I feel so fortunate to have had her as a friend for many years. She will be missed by many. ❤️❤️

Janet Plant - July 18, 2023 at 07:42 PM

KE

Brian and Julie you have my heartfelt sympathy. I miss her now and will continue to miss her. She was a fascinating woman and I loved our long conversations when I could no longer travel. Last August she brought me a portion of her 80th Birthday cake that you designed for her, Julie. She appreciated it so much. She spoke of both her children and grandchildren with such love. I hope you all can hang on to that.

Kathleen Martin Estus - July 18, 2023 at 08:41 PM

KT

“ Julie and Brian so sorry for your loss. She was not only my aunt she was my godmother. She touched all our lives in so many different ways. She will be missed by many. Rest Easy Aunty Ellen love always



Kathleen Theroux - July 18, 2023 at 07:32 PM

KS

“ Julie I am truly sorry for the long of your dear Mom, I remember you as a young girl and the memories of your family as well. I send my condolences and prayers to your entire family. May God always shine and send her light upon you! AMEN

Karen Sutton - July 18, 2023 at 07:30 PM

JP

“ Janet Plant lit a candle in memory of Ellen M. McGill



Janet Plant - July 18, 2023 at 07:28 PM

KM

“ Julie, Brian and family. I am so sorry for your loss. I have way to many memories to talk about. I have been blessed for 57 yrs with having Aunty Ellen in my life. She certainly will be missed by many. Rest in peace Aunty Ellen . I love you always ❤️🦋

Karen Malo - July 18, 2023 at 06:44 PM

JT

Ellen was my father Jack Thompson's second wife. She took him in, along with his half finished sailboat! Whar a wonderful cheerful person she was. She was a step grandmon to my sons Adrian and Garrett. Brian and Julie, so sorry for your sudden loss, what a shame. James Thompson

James Thompson - July 25, 2023 at 07:56 AM