



Sylvia Weber

September 7, 2024

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO
SYLVIA WEBER, MSN, APRN-CNS; LT. COLONEL, US ARMY RESERVE-
RETIRED.

On Sept. 7, Sylvia (Siggy) Weber, 85, a beloved psychiatric nurse leader, healer and veteran of the Air Force and US Army reserves, 455th General Hospital, rested in peace after a courageous struggle with an insidious disease. She was a tireless supporter of nursing, receiving many awards during her career, that ended just a few months before her death. Known as “Woman of the Eagle, who laughs and argues” formed in the fire of the Tinneh tradition was most proud of her honor as a warrior woman. She was a lifelong champion of the environment, while bringing the sacred feminine into balance throughout the universe.

She was born in Bensonhurst (Brooklyn) New York, the daughter of the late Harry and Ida (Zuckerman) Weber. She leaves behind her older sister, Estelle (Weber) Beckerman, sister in law, Bernice Weber, her daughters, Ilene (Weber) Schulenberger, and husband Ray Schulenberger, and her daughter, Susan (Weber)Tashian, who, with her son, Zachary, was her primary and loving care giver in her final months. She was devoted to her four grandchildren, Samantha & Genna Companatico and Zachary & Jack

Tashian. She was pre-deceased by her brothers, Gerald & Jack Weber and brother in law, Stuart Beckerman

Sylvia moved to RI in 1972 after receiving her Diploma in Nursing from Kings Point Hospital; her BSN from New York University and her MSN from UCLA. She taught psychiatric nursing, briefly, at University of Long Beach before moving to RI. Certainly, one of her greatest accomplishments was her private practice counseling and mental health services for 50 years, through which she touched the lives of many individuals and families.

She contributed to the education of psychiatric nurses as in-service director at Butler Hospital where she established lifelong friendships with her colleagues. She was guest lecturer at the University of RI and RI College.

She was an active participant in many organizations. Nationally, she served on the American Nurses Association Congress for Nursing Practice for many years. She dedicated over 50 years to the RI State Nurses Association serving as the President of the Board, Director, Chair of the Environmental Council and Government Affairs. She served on the state board of nursing.

She was the recipient of the RI State Nurses Association President's Award and in 2011 was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the RI State Nurses Association.

She was an active member of the RI Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, the RI Public Health Association, Sigma Theta Tau an honorary nursing society and the Environmental Council of RI. Sylvia was the force behind integrating environmental safety into nursing practice.

Most notably, Sylvia was a Therapeutic Touch® practitioner, studying with

Dolores Krieger and Dora Kunz for many decades. She went onto teach hundreds of students the science and art of this modality to ease pain, decrease anxiety and ease depression.

Sylvia, “talked the talk and walked the walk” in both her professional and personal life. She was a kind and compassionate force, always giving of herself and never expecting anything in return.

She was a woman of many firsts.

The first single woman in RI to be granted a mortgage.

The first single woman in RI to adopt children.

Personally, she was a friend to many. She opened her house to many individuals when they were in crisis.

She donated to many associations that were aligned with her belief system.

The Nature Conservancy, Planned Parenthood and the ACLU to name a few.

And let us not forget her undying dedication to the New England Patriots, Providence Bruins and URI basketball, always the loudest fan in the stadium.

Her family would like to thank the nurses, nurse practitioners, physicians and all other staff members who cared for Sylvia with gentleness and compassion at Steere House and at the Hope Hospice in-patient unit in Providence. There is a special thank you to Sylvia’s friend, Carol Turton, who stood by her side throughout her final days, and to her close friends: Nancy Rosendal, Ruth McIntosh, and Denise Coppa.

One final note: In 2012 she published a book “A GUIDE FOR COMPASSION IN POLITICAL POWER”.

She included her epitaph in the book’s text.

“Here lay Sylvia under the only rock she could not turn over”.

A Memorial Service will be held Tuesday September 17th at 12:00 noon in the Winfield & Sons Funeral Home and Crematory, 571 West Greenville Road, Scituate. Gathering will begin one hour prior starting at 11:00 a.m. At the request of Sylvia's family, they request for anyone attending to please wear purple.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP 17. 11:00 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

SEP 17. 12:00 PM (ET)

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

Tribute Wall

JL

“ My dear, dear Sylvia,

What began as my enrolling in a six week course that you were teaching became an almost forty year collaboration. We literally grew old together. Never did I expect our July 24, 2024 meeting to be the last time that we would see each other or speak to each other. It is probably best that it happened that way because saying goodbye would have been so difficult. Every time I left one of our meetings your words were the same "call if you need to." Many times this past week I said to myself "I have to tell Sylvia," "I have to ask Sylvia." You have made me such a better person - confident, self assured and able to make it on my own. Your kindnesses to me are immeasurable. You knew the holidays were an especially difficult time. You never failed to make that telephone call on Thanksgiving just to say "hi." You scheduled our meetings on Christmas Day. You sat in the exam room to ease my anxiety during an MRI. There are so many more. You so often said that death is not the end, but just a different dimension, the spirit world. I will look for you in nature - in the birds, the flowers and the trees. Please let me know that you are near. I will never forget you Sylvia. You will always have a piece of my heart. I will miss you everyday for the rest of my natural life. My dear, dear Sylvia this is not goodbye, but until we meet again and I must believe that we will.



Joann Lombardi

Joann Lombardi - September 15, 2024 at 06:18 PM

JO

“ *Sylvia, you certainly were a trailblazer in so many ways. It was a pleasure for me to be able to call you a friend. You’ve left a wonderful legacy in your service to so many people. RIP.*

John O’Leary - September 15, 2024 at 07:43 AM

DV

“ *My dearest Sylvia, I shall treasure our friendship forever. I am so grateful to have known you and your great spirit. I will miss your beautiful smile and warm heart.
Rest my dear friend and sister, Dora Vasquez-Hellner, US Army*

Dora T Vasquez-Hellner - September 15, 2024 at 07:23 AM

BM

“ *To Sylvia's family:*

Sylvia was a neighbor of mine for the past 17 years. She was such a delight to see every morning walking 'Louie.' We would always stop and chat briefly about many things; the Patriots, the environment, her volunteering and work, just to name a few. She always had a smile on her face! I was literally heartbroken to hear of her illness. She was such a wonderful human being, whom I always looked forward to seeing. This remarkable woman will be deeply missed. I am so sorry for your loss.

My deepest condolences,

Brenda Melone

Brenda Melone - September 13, 2024 at 12:23 PM

PC

“ Sylvia was my buddy Scotty and my adopted tailgate mom. We met Sylvia at a Pats game almost 20 years ago. She could see right away that we were tailgating rookies so she took us under her wing and made us feel welcome, she would save a parking spot for us or if she was not going insured we had one saved for us. I took my wife down to RI to meet her and we spent the day together, went for fish and chips as well as a trip to the beach. She was a very caring woman with a huge heart. Her loss makes me sad and I will miss her but her memory will always bring a smile to my face.
" Fair winds and following seas" my friend
Parker and Karen
Dartmouth NS Canada

Parker Courtney - September 12, 2024 at 11:05 AM

MF

“ Sylvia, I am so grateful to have known you. You taught me Therapeutic Touch. You were a respected colleague. As a skilled clinician you guided me and my family through some significant difficulties. You were a neighbor. We walked in the neighborhood. We went out to dinner to catch up. And that is just a few ways you touched my life. You were a friend and a kind gentle soul and a warrior! I am but one of many who were touched by you! Thank you for being you!
Mary Kennelly Frey

Mary Kennelly Frey - September 11, 2024 at 05:43 PM

GW

“ So privileged to have known you Sylvia. Remembering your smile, energy, compassion for others and fun we had at Pumpkin Hollow Farm, your dance of the seven veils, your generosity hosting Rob & I at your home, the polo match and so much more. Your love and understanding of the energy of trees, love of animals especially your cats and especially your service to our military as a combat nurse. You will be sorely missed but not forgotten my friend.



Glenn Wood - September 11, 2024 at 10:15 AM

ST

“ Mom,
I can't believe that you went into the hospital on August 1st for a simple spine biopsy, and in 38 days we got no actual diagnosis but did find out that you had cancer and then we lost you. To watch you decline every day was so heartbreaking. I'm so happy that you were surrounded by so much love as you took your last breath. You're no longer in pain my beautiful Mom. I miss you so much and life as I know it, will never be the same again. I love you so much Mom. I am the lucky one out of millions of kids in this world, but you chose me. Thank you for giving me a wonderful life. Rest in heavenly peace and I can already see you dancing away with your brothers!



Susan Tashian - September 11, 2024 at 04:32 AM

CF

Beautiful Denise thank you for such a beautiful remembering of an extraordinary person I was glad to call my dear friend Cathy Fanslow

Cathy Fanslow - September 11, 2024 at 08:56 AM

NC

Years ago we were young nurses in New York, who shared the same birthday.

Always an inspiring friend with an enormous ability

To love and comfort others..

I will miss you here on earth, but I'll look forward to joining you petty soon.

Nadine Cowen - September 11, 2024 at 06:37 PM

JP

“ *Sylvia ,I will miss our talks, especially how your love for Animals was also a passion for you. I wasn't aware of how much you accomplished in your life, you truly were a Warrior. May you rest in eternal peace, my heartfelt Condolences to all your family 🙏*

Jo-Ann Polce - September 10, 2024 at 09:29 PM

JV

“ *Sylvia spoke to us when I was a student at RI College. She left an indelible memory on all of us with her grace, her wit, and her passion for nursing and for psychiatric health. She has been a well-known name in health care during my entire nursing career. Thank you, Sylvia, for caring so much, and for sharing your truth with all of us. RIP, we will always remember you.*

Jeanne Verity - September 10, 2024 at 08:18 PM

SH

“ My God Sylvia,

You will be missed by so many,Including us.

You adopted the Canadins year after ,after year. Ah yes,Patriot games will never be the same.

Always a smile and glint in your eyes for us.

Did you know, you had that talent to make anyone feel speacil when you addressed them ?

Well heaven is a little brighter with you my dear Sylvia,what an angel we got to share our life with.

To your family, condolences Scott and Marie Harrison

scott james harrison - September 10, 2024 at 07:19 PM