



Eileen P. Gallagher

March 29, 1922 - November 24, 2015

Albany-Eileen Theresa Purtell Gallagher, 93, died peacefully at home with her family on Tuesday, November 24, 2015. Born in Troy, NY in 1922, she was the daughter of the late James and Ellen Foster Purtell. She was raised in South Troy and graduated from Catholic Central High School. After attending Mildred Elley, she began her career as a legal secretary in 1940.

She moved to Albany in 1945 with her mother and sisters. She married her husband James in 1960. She returned to the work force when her children were in their teens, working as a secretary at the NYS Department of Health and eventually retiring as the secretary for the Director of that agency. After retiring, she worked for several years in the office of then Assemblyman Jack McEneny.

She is survived by her son James, her daughter Ellen, her sister Emily Skinkle, and her sisters-in-law Margaret (Donald) Byrnes and Nora (John) Donlon . She also leaves behind numerous beloved nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband James Gallagher, her siblings Jeremiah, William (Wimpy), James, John (Buddy), and Kathryn Carro.

Eileen was involved in a host of community, civic, and religious organizations. She was a religious education teacher at St. Teresa of Avila. She was active with many committees and events at The Cathedral of the Immaculate

Conception where she was a Eucharistic Minister, and served on the Parish Council, the St. Vincent DePaul Society and the Gold Committee. She was a homemaker, girl scout leader and poll watcher. She monitored the Albany City Council and Albany City and Family Courts for the Fund for Modern Courts. She was deeply involved in reform politics in Albany in the late 60s and 70s, from the Albany Independent Movement, to the first elected School Board. She was a co-founder of the New Scotland-Whitehall Neighborhood Association and the Teen Center at School 19.

She and her late husband travelled extensively through Europe and the United States after they retired and loved spending time at their camp with their extended family at The Great Sacandaga Lake.

She will be remembered for her love of family, good will, humor and tenacity.

Special thanks to everyone who helped take care of Eileen in her final days.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Eileen's family Friday, November 27, 2015 4:00 to 7:00 pm in McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany.

Funeral services will be Saturday, November 28, 2015 at 8:15 am from McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany thence to the Parish of Mater Christi, Albany at 9:00 am where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated.

Interment will immediately follow the Mass at St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands.

Those wishing to remember Eileen in a special way may send a contribution to Community Hospice, 445 New Karner Rd., Albany, NY 12205.

To leave a message for the family, obtain directions, light a candle or view other helpful services, please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Cemetery Details

St. Agnes Cemetery

48 Cemetery Ave
Menands, NY

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 27. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc.
208 N Allen St
Albany, NY 12206
(518) 489-0188
info@mcveighfuneralhome.com
<http://www.McveighFuneralHome.com>

Service

NOV 28. 9:00 AM (ET)

Parish of Mater Christi
40 Hopewell Street (Rev. Kenneth J. Doyle Way)
Albany, NY 12208

Tribute Wall



“ *McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. created a Tribute Video in memory of Eileen P. Gallagher*



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - November 25, 2015 at 03:17 PM



“ *Eileen P. Gallagher*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *Jim & Ellen, my heartfelt sympathy on the passing of your dear mother. I worked with Eileen at the State Health Department in the '80s. She was an inspiration to her colleagues. Eileen's tireless work ethic, endless energy and caring ways were always evident. She had a wonderful sense of values, enduring love of her family and a joyous sense of humor. Her funny stories kept us laughing and lightened the mood in a sometimes hectic workplace. My memories of Eileen will always have a special place in my heart.*

Janine Maxwell

Janine Maxwell - December 02, 2015 at 07:02 AM

SG

“ I was just reading yesterday's paper and saw that Eileen died. She is a special lady! Eileen had been a volunteer at St. Vincent's Parish until she didn't feel well enough to do it. She would come in one morning a week to be our receptionist. Eileen would ask if she could help us do anything while she was answering the phone. It was apparent that she was an excellent secretary. She was accurate and fast. Eileen was always a wonderful help and I enjoyed talking with her. I am so sorry for your loss and be assured of my support in prayer during this time of separation and loss. Sr. Eleanor Guerin

Sr. Eleanor Guerin - November 27, 2015 at 07:24 PM

ES

“ Aunt Eileen was one of the warmest and kindest, and most loving and welcoming people I've ever known. She was not only this way toward her own family and friends, but she also opened her arms and invited in friends of friends, and people she only met once. I can still hear her voice saying, "What can I get you?"--what she asked you the minute you walked in the door, so that you would be comfortable and happy. She introduced the joy of Sacandaga into my life, and the lives of John and our girls, and gave us countless wonderful memories to treasure always. She took care of me with patience and compassion when I was a child, and taught me by example how to be good to others, and how to make a house a home. Her love will always be with us even as we will miss her tremendously. Our love and sympathy are with you, Jim and Ellen, and all her family and friends. Ellen Shea, John Schaefer, and family

Ellen Shea - November 27, 2015 at 11:04 AM

EE

“ We are so saddened by the passing of our beloved Aunt Eileen. She was the most caring, loving, compassionate soul I have ever met and I have the honor to be part of her family. She is truly a Saint in every sense of the word. I will cherish all the wonderful memories of Lake Sacandaga and Winnie Street that we were so fortunate to share with her. Soar on Aunt Eileen....you are so loved and missed. Love, Eileen, Mike and Family.

Eileen Esposito - November 25, 2015 at 08:36 PM

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FUNERAL HOME, INC.
(518) 489-0188

“ 51 files added to the album Life Tributes



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - November 25, 2015 at 03:11 PM