



Eileen Murray

July 3, 1946 - March 11, 2020

Albany - Eileen Murray passed away peacefully Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at home following a long illness. She was born in 1946 and was the daughter of the late Owen Charles Murray and Rose Carragher.

She is survived by her loving husband Ken Baker, her stepson Demond Baker, his wife DeBorah Baker and her grandchildren Demi & Devin Baker. Also surviving is her sister Liz Murray, sister-in-law Anne Murray, beloved in-laws and nieces and nephews and at least 23 cousins in the US and Ireland. Eileen was predeceased by her brother Gene Murray.

Eileen took great pride in her Irish heritage and was thrilled to learn she was 98% Irish.

Eileen devoted her life to helping others. She was born and raised in New York City and as she always said was born in Queens, grew up in the Bronx, lived in Manhattan and worked in Brooklyn. She was active with Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker Movement. She met Ken while working for the New York City Commission on Human Rights and followed him to Albany when he began working for the State. She then worked for over 20 years at the State

Division of Housing & Community Renewal. She was an engaged neighborhood activist and with her gift for photography was always called to take pictures at community events. Following retirement, she continued her housing and planning efforts volunteering with the Affordable Housing Partnership.

Memorial donations may be made in her name to the Affordable Housing Partnership, 255 Orange St, Albany, NY 12210 or the Irish American Heritage Museum, 21 Quackenbush Square, Albany, NY 12207.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with Eileen's family on St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, March 17, 2020 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm in the McVeigh Funeral Home, 208 North Allen Street, Albany.

A service celebrating her life will be held at a later date.

To leave Eileen's family a message on their guestbook, light a candle, obtain directions, or view other helpful services, please visit www.mcveighfuneralhome.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 17. 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>

Tribute Wall



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



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - March 17, 2020 at 11:27 AM

JU

Very nice

Juliusfgibson - March 24, 2020 at 01:42 PM



“ *Eileen Murray*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM

GH

“ *I'm sad to hear that Eileen has passed on. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Ken and family. I will remember Eileen as a devoted and passionate housing professional who always put the shelter needs of ordinary tenants ahead of other interests within the housing industry. I will, of course, always fondly remember our days working together in a small group within the agency. Eileen was usually the adult in the group, always business-like and professional. She was tough! and we loved her! I'm glad that Eileen confirmed her Irish roots, and close with an Irish blessing: Death leaves a heartache no one can heal; Love leaves a memory no one can steal.*

gary hallock - March 30, 2020 at 04:56 PM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joyce Andrews - March 19, 2020 at 05:09 PM

JA

“ One more from high school ❤️🙏

Joyce Andrews - March 19, 2020 at 04:48 PM

JA

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Joyce Andrews - March 18, 2020 at 08:28 PM

JA

So very sorry to hear of Eileen's passing. Everybody liked her from school days on. We were lucky to be among those who knew her first. St. Helena High School, Class of '64

Joyce Andrews - March 18, 2020 at 08:29 PM

BM

This is my Eileen, a friend throughout high school - truly a friend. I grieve her passing. May she rest in peace. Eileen, I shall always remember you standing up and waving at me with a big grin - in the gym for the Christmas pageant of our Freshman year after I said, "I am the angel of Italy". You had a spontaneity that could not be denied. Love you forever, friend.

bernie mangan - March 19, 2020 at 01:56 PM

LJ

“ One of my earliest memories as a baby was Eileen and her husband gifting me a stuffed black and white cat. It contains a music box which plays a "Close to you" by the Carpenters. Her kindness, generosity and wisdom has had influence since I was a baby to the man I am today. A godmother to me and my sister It was always a pleasure to see and talk to her at any age. Always extremely helpful to me, my family and my mother. We held her in the highest of regards through my life and its terrible, tragic and sad to see her gone. She lived a life of giving and progress, learning, happiness and fulfillment. She has touched the lives of so many including myself, strangers she hardly knew through her work and did the best for wherever she lived and whomever she knew.

Upstate New York is a gorgeous place. Forest and hills far as the eye could see, sometimes stretching up like mountains. Great big green pines, lining and curving on the landscapes. Lakes so calm and flat, cool to the touch. Bitterly, harshly cold in the summers, and warm and refreshing summers. Its vacation to some but magical to any who venture or live up there.

Eileen, help me see that world more than once. Introduced me to so many new ideas and her family with a great big heart and open arms. I wish them all the best and happiness moving forward.

I carry that cat to this day. I will likely give it to my child or someone I wish to have wonder and kindness in their heart.

Rest well Eileen, knowing you did beyond a good job.

Rest in peace Eileen.

-Luke Johnson

Luke E Johnson - March 18, 2020 at 03:42 PM

CM

“ Charles and Francesca McPhillips send condolences to Eileen Murray's family

charles mcphillips - March 17, 2020 at 06:48 PM

JC

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



John Conway - March 17, 2020 at 05:31 PM

JC

“ I worked with Eileen on any number of projects at the Division of Housing. It was a pleasure to work with Eileen. She was always professional and committed to the task at hand, and if we ever became too focused on numbers - - dollars or units - - Eileen could always turn the discussion to people, and remind me why we were there and what we were trying to accomplish. Eileen helped me plan my first trip to Ireland. We shared an interest in Irish culture and were always running into each other at various events. Many of us at the Division of Housing were pleased to call Eileen a friend. She had a way of seeing the humanity in everyone. I always thought that she was the type of person who, by her example, challenged me to be a better person. We will miss her. So sorry I couldn't be there on St. Patrick's Day.

John Conway - March 17, 2020 at 04:50 PM

JV

“ *Eileen was a kind loyal friend. We met at St Helena High School in 1961. We enjoyed many adventures together. She taught me about play, politics and photography. Over the years Eileen demonstrated kindness of heart and generosity of spirit. To me Eileen was extraordinarily outgoing. She often said all children were her children. She cared about her family and friends. After she moved to Albany she would visit my two children and I. She photographed them. We shared memorable trips to museums. When she traveled she sent us postcards and she always remembered us at Christmas and birthdays. She adopted us. She was Aunt Eileen. Eileen was sharp witted with a keen sense of humor. She pushed me to think about things I wouldn't have thought about without her. We had fun together. Eileen enjoyed doing things and she led me out of myself to share adventures. I am a better person because I knew Eileen. I am grateful for Eileen and I feel honored to have known her. I love her forever.*

jeanne viviani - March 17, 2020 at 03:06 PM

RD

“ *Dear Ken and family,*

Lorraine and I are so sorry for your loss and for the painful times that must have preceded it. She was a sparkling and charming person who brought a great deal to the many Hansen Avenue gatherings we were able to participate in. We look forward to the memorial celebration you plan to have in the future. Regretfully, we will not be attending today's visiting hours because of Lorraine's enhanced susceptibility to the pandemic due to her diabetes. Please know that our hearts and prayers are with you at this time of loss.

Lorraine and Russell Dubuc

Russell Dubuc - March 17, 2020 at 02:24 PM

HA

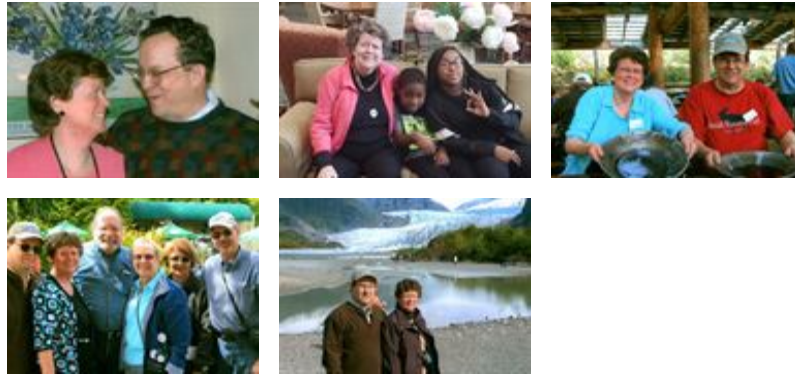
“ I worked with Ken and my wife and I became fast friends with the two of them. My heart goes out to Ken at losing Eileen. What a wonderful person she was.

Herb Alfasso

Herb Alfasso - March 17, 2020 at 11:31 AM



“ 50 files added to the album Life Tributes



McVeigh Funeral Home, Inc. - March 17, 2020 at 11:28 AM

ST

“ Eileen was never one to back down from an argument in favor of those who truly needed help. But she did it with humility, charm, quick wit and grace. It was my honor to work with her at DHCR for several years. She was and still is an inspiration.

Stephen Tomasik

Stephen Tomasik - March 17, 2020 at 06:37 AM

AK

“ Eileen always had a light in her eyes. She came to visit us in San Fran years ago and seemed so eager to soak up the city. I last saw her in July 2019 when she & Ken made the journey to my dad's 70th birthday. We all danced along with her sister Liz & celebrated life. All Eileen wanted to do was dance the day away. Such a great lesson especially today. Sending much love to the Murray/Baker family. - Amy, Mike, Serena & Brynn Kennedy.

Amy Kennedy - March 17, 2020 at 01:05 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Eileen Murray.



March 17, 2020 at 12:57 AM

JE

“ Eileen and Ken were neighbors for almost a year at Shaker Pointe. They were dedicated to each other. Eileen was very intelligent, friendly and interesting. Our deepest sympathy to Ken and her family. She sure did have the look of an Irish lass. May she rest in God's Peace forever. Carole and Jack Egan

John Egan - March 16, 2020 at 07:58 PM

KM

“ Some memories of Eileen - Eileen's mom, Rose, was a widow and my dad, Terry, was a widower and they were dating. After dating for sometime, they each went to Ireland on different days. Eileen and I were on the phone trying to figure out what they were up to. Eileen said they would most likely come back as Mr. & Mrs. and she was right. That is when the Murrays and the McCabes became extended family.

Rose had three grown children, Gene, Liz & Eileen. Terry had four grown children, Francis, Terry, Kathaleen and Peter.

We were very lucky in July of 2019 when the family got together on the occasion of Peter McCabe's 70th birthday party, which was held in Long Beach, New York. It was a long trip from Albany, New York, but deter Ken, Eileen and Liz . We had great time catching up and sharing memories.

I always admired Eileen over the years as I watched her do some things that were not easy. Terry, Rose's second husband, passed away suddenly at the age of 63 and Rose was alone again. Eileen rolled up her sleeves and never missed a beat. Whatever Rosie (as Eileen very affectionately called her Mom) needed, Eileen was two steps ahead to meet her needs. For nearly thirty years Eileen had her back and, as I learned watching over the years, if Eileen had your back, you were in very good shape.

I would like to speak for the McCabe family and say "We will miss you, Eileen."

May the road rise to meet you Eileen, and we will all meet again.

*Love,
Kathaleen*

Kathaleen McCabe - March 16, 2020 at 04:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Eileen Murray.*



March 16, 2020 at 02:46 PM



“ *I love you grandma and forever will. I remember all the times me, you, grandpa, and Demi would all make breakfast every time me and Demi would stay the night. You and grandpa would take us different places like museums for example. I miss you and always will. I wish we could've had more time together. Love, Gabriella Raelyn Hoffman*

Gabriella Raelyn Hoffman - March 16, 2020 at 11:42 AM



Eileen, you will be missed. I will cherish many memories, the beach houses in VA, my wedding (thank god you always had your camera), Thanksgiving, etc. Thanks for treating Gabby like your own grandchild, she will always cherish the times spent with you and Ken. I will cherish our conversations and your wisdom. God has called one of his angels home. Rest In Peace. Love you, Jennifer (Keba Hoffman)

Jennifer Hoffman - March 17, 2020 at 07:28 AM



“ *We are heart broken by your passing, you will be greatly missed by all. We enjoyed your trips to the Cape and ours to NY. Rest in peace. Love Michael, Susan, Vanessa & Joe.*

Susan Pires - March 15, 2020 at 06:42 PM

AR

“ We are so saddened to hear of Eileen's passing. She was always warm and loving with a great zest for life, which was evidenced even as she dealt with her illness. Our sincerest condolences to Ken and family and her sister Liz. May God rest her soul in eternal peace.

Love from Ann, Ann & Adam Rettus-Sissler.

Ann Rettus - March 15, 2020 at 04:01 PM

JG

“ I'm so sorry to hear about Eileen.

Joni Goldberg (SLP at Memorial)

Joni Goldberg - March 15, 2020 at 12:57 PM

VP

“ I was privileged to have met Eileen on her first full day of residency at Shaker Pointe. It was a happy occasion. Eileen was witty, friendly, delightful. I noticed these traits continued on as she struggled daily with her ailment. She may have lost other things in the struggle, but she hung onto these until her final days. My condolences to Ken and the rest of her family. We will miss her.

Vince Powers - March 15, 2020 at 11:08 AM

PD

“ You always inspired me to be a better person Eileen.

Pat Doyle - March 15, 2020 at 09:35 AM

LD

“ I met Eileen at a fund raiser of Judy D and we immediately bonded as she worked with my BFF and DHCR . My friend died suddenly and Eileen was so comforting. We would run into each other at many events: a ceili at the Hibernian Hall, the Madison Avenue Street Fair and last year at the after parade party. Each time we had another Albany moment to share. I will miss running into her and my condolences to her husband and extended family Leslie Dykeman, Albany ny

leslie dykeman - March 15, 2020 at 08:10 AM

BM

“ How I wish there had been more time to get to know Eileen after their move to my community last year. We've lost a treasure, one that would have settled in and made an impact here, just as she did throughout her extraordinary life. Let us remember her keen interest in meeting all of us and her lifelong intent to spread kindness to everyone. To Ken and both the Murray and Baker families I send heartfelt condolences and a wish for Eileen to rest well in heaven.

Barb Miller - March 14, 2020 at 04:11 PM

SH

“ They're aren't enough Eileen Murrays in the world...rest in peace, dear friend.
xox Sheilah

Sheilah - March 14, 2020 at 02:54 PM

JB

“ We will miss you Eileen and will always remember the joy and good times we had when we traveled together with you and Ken and Ginger and Leon. Rest in peace God will take care of you now. With love always,
John and Mary

John and Mary Baker - March 14, 2020 at 01:24 PM

MD

“ Eileen was one of the most passionate people I worked with at DHCR. She was always concerned with the struggles of the poor and did everything in her power to make their lives a little better. She left her mark on our work and our agency is a better place because of her.

Michael DeBonis - March 14, 2020 at 10:04 AM



Deborah
Moore

“ My sincere condolences to the Baker and Murray families. This is so sad! Eileen was such a good friend in my biggest time of need! She will be remembered fondly and missed. Deb Moore

Deborah Moore - March 13, 2020 at 11:54 AM

MD

“ Sympathies to the Baker and Murray families. so sorry to get this news....Mike DeGiulio

michael degiulio - March 13, 2020 at 11:07 AM

AA

“ My deepest sympathies to the Baker and Murray families. The world could certainly use more people like Eileen Murray, especially in these tough times. Her sense of good, of fairness and of justice, especially on behalf of those who could not advocate effectively for themselves, are lessons which benefitted all who were lucky enough to know her. I am so very sorry, friends.

Arnie Adler - March 13, 2020 at 10:15 AM

VA

“ Eileen was a force to the underprivileged and a joy of a friend and coworker. Prayers to you all. She loved her family with all she had.



Valerie - March 13, 2020 at 08:55 AM

SR

After President Kennedy's death the Irish press stated "...Johnny we hardly knew ye." In many ways I mourn the woman I hardly got to know. When Eileen moved into Shaker Pointe she was discussing the Muller Report and had a wonderful political wit that I truly loved. Before long so much was taken away from her by her illness. Yet she continued to reach out and managed to communicate with passion and conviction. As we read what so many have written I hope all of us can appreciate the legacy of kindness and justice for all, that was such a hallmark of her life. Thank you Eileen you are loved and you will surely be missed .We are all better for knowing you.

Sr. Mary Anne Rodgers - March 17, 2020 at 04:18 PM

BW

Dear Ken and family - I'm so sorry for your loss of Eileen. I know that all the members of the Albany Torch Club join in offering our heartfelt sympathy and best wishes. God bless.

Bob Ward - March 17, 2020 at 10:05 PM

DD

Very sorry to hear of Eileen's death so many years later. Always enjoyed the St. Paddy's Day parties she and Ken hosted. Great Irish coffee and soda bread.

David Dax, 9/4/24

David Dax - September 04, 2024 at 07:50 AM