



Ellen Anne Picotte

May 31, 1951 - March 13, 2017

Albany-Ellen Anne Picotte of Albany, NY passed away on March 13, 2017 after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Born May 31, 1951 in Saratoga Springs, Ellen was raised in Loudonville, NY with her brother, Bill by their adoptive parents, the late Helen B. and Clifford E. Picotte.

Ellen graduated from The Academy of Holy Names in Albany and from Marymount College in Tarrytown, NY. Her professional life was diverse - from serving as the infamous “Clam Lady” at the Elbow Room in Albany to technical writing for Smith & Mahoney, PC. Real estate was in her blood and what most interested her; it drove her professional success. Early in her career, she formed Landmark Developer Services, Inc. with Nancy Wawrla and focused on historic preservation certifications. That experience led Ellen into new construction and subdivision development in Kinderhook, NY. She then began a successful career as a realtor that spanned more than 22 years. In 2016, Ellen was awarded the prestigious Samuel E. Blake award by Berkshire Hathaway Home Services Realtors. She was also a member of the NYS Board of Realtors and served on its Ethics Committee.

Ellen’s philanthropic and volunteer associations were wide-reaching and included the Albany Fund for Education, Historic Albany Foundation, Hudson/Park Neighborhood Association, Lark Street Business Improvement District and Washington Park Conservancy. She also served on the board of

Habitat for Humanity and was a former member of both the Fort Orange Club and the Junior League of Albany.

Ellen loved sports and had a resume to prove it. She was a member of the “Fab Five,” an elite group of five runners who participated in the Freihofer’s Run for Women each year since its inception. She also designed the now fan-familiar “Crossing Line since ’79” t-shirt, that identified those dedicated runners. In 2016, after completing intensive medical treatment, Ellen completed her 39th Freihofer’s Run.

In addition to her running achievements, Ellen added hiking, backpacking, and softball to her repertoire. She backpacked most of the Appalachian Trail, climbed the Adirondack High Peaks, and with her nephew, Philip, completed Vermont’s Long Trail. Ellen also loved softball and played with several local teams, such as the Hurley’s Girlies and McGear’s Dearies, and served as catcher for the NYS Higher Education team, the Higher Heads. She was an avid Yankees fan, but never failed to support local teams such as the Albany Firebirds and the Siena Saints.

In 1998, Ellen discovered a second brother, David Collins, who had been adopted by a family in Guilderland, NY. Ellen, Bill, and David bonded quickly and the sibling “pack” was expanded to three. With the encouragement of her husband, Ellen continued the search for her birth mother and not only found her, but five additional siblings as well. A family reunion made continued relationships possible.

Ellen is survived by her beloved husband James J. Dolan of Albany; her brother William B. (Susan) Picotte of Albany, NY; her nephews David (Abby) Picotte of Columbus, OH and Philip (Devon) Picotte of New Haven, CT; her stepdaughters Jamie (Jamie) Salter and Kristy (Alex) Tarr; as well as three step-grandchildren. Ellen is also survived by numerous cousins, in-laws, and a

multitude of friends, whose lives she touched beyond words. The family also wishes to thank Nancy Wawrla for her long-standing friendship to and loving support of Ellen during her difficult illness.

Ellen has requested that her remains be donated to the Albany Medical College Anatomical Donation Program.

A celebration of Ellen's life will be held in the spring at the convenience of the family and notice will appear in this paper.

Donations in Ellen's memory may be made to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, 799 Washington Street, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425-0807; Historic Albany Foundation, 89 Lexington Avenue, Albany NY 12206; or Habitat for Humanity Capital District, 325 Washington Avenue Ext., Albany, NY 12205.

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

Tribute Wall



“ *Ellen Anne Picotte*

October 08, 2023 at 09:24 PM



“ *I understand this is a late nobody notified me that Ellen and had passed away we live next door in loudonville for 18 years we also played all together on lake George I feel so bad about her I love her so much is the girl next door and one of my best friends God be with her and her family and her brother I love you Ellen Ann*

Dave Crannell - March 07, 2021 at 02:17 AM



“ *Ellen was a classmate at Academy of the Holy Names, and one of the kindest, smartest, funniest, creative - and memorable. I am saddened to learn she is gone. We last spoke by phone about 20 years ago, long after I had moved out of the area. But she was warm and welcoming, like no time had passed - it is how I will always remember her.*

Gail Reilly - June 17, 2017 at 10:02 PM

DB

“ I have been out of the loop of all my old real estate friends since I moved up to Saratoga and changed careers, so I was saddened today to hear about Ellen's passing just before the Run for Women today. As many have said, she was an amazing woman with an amazing spirit that I know lives on. We worked together at Prudential and would hang out together often, including at the very fun real estate conventions. An example of her comical spirit: We were all at a real estate convention in Las Vegas. We had just left a formal evening event and we were all dressed to the nines. As we walked down a beautiful hall of the Bellagio Hotel, Ellen in her stunning evening gown, decides to put her "Billy Bob Teeth" in her mouth. She then continued to walk the hallway, making eye contact with strangers. Once she had their attention, she gave them a big Billy Bob smile. We all never laughed so hard in our lives. This is just one example of how funny she was and how she knew how to live life fully. Hope to see you again someday Ellen! It's a real loss to our community.

David Bassani - June 03, 2017 at 06:30 AM

 Bill
Depew

“ She helped sell our home. Never in a million years did we know what a special lady she was. She took ill during our selling process, and seemed optimistic about beating it. As We have lost immediate family members to the big C and I dodged a bullet myself, I have an intense hate for this disease. Our heart and thoughts with the family.
Bill Depew and Jenny Depew

Bill Depew - March 29, 2017 at 08:11 PM

AH

“Ellan and I spent many hours over three years looking for the "perfect" house for me to relocate to be near my daughter. What good times we had laughing and looking until we did find the perfect one! She was so much fun and even after the house was purchased she remained a good friend and came out with Jim to see all the improvements I made. She will truly be missed. She had a great and wonderful influence on my life.

Ann Hein

Ann Hein - March 27, 2017 at 01:56 PM

DH

“Ellen was totally full of life with a mischievous twinkle and ready sense of humor. We loved her and will miss her.

Dave and Carol Hansen

Dave and Carol Hansen - March 26, 2017 at 04:59 PM

DH

“Dave And Carol Hansen lit a candle in memory of Ellen Anne Picotte




Dave and Carol Hansen - March 26, 2017 at 04:56 PM

JA

“Ellen was and remains an influence in our lives. Her generosity of spirit, adventure, honesty and humor contributed to the vibrancy and texture of our being.

Janet Bickel Aliberti

Janet Aliberti - March 26, 2017 at 09:12 AM

 Jane Guterman

“ Although it's been many years since I last saw Ellen, (I moved to Florida) I fondly remember her wonderful outlook on life and the fun times we shared. My condolences to the family.
Jane Guterman

Jane Guterman - March 25, 2017 at 10:06 AM

AM

“ Fond memories of her boundless energy and wonderful commentary as part of the Washington Tavern and Hurley's Girlies softball teams.
Condolences to the family.
Anne Messer

Anne Messer - March 22, 2017 at 03:04 PM

HS

“ A wicked sense of humor, replete with a charming mischievous side, quickly set her off. We did a project together. She was a pro.
Herb Starr

Herb Starr - March 20, 2017 at 04:27 PM

GM

“ Gina Garry McCormick lit a candle in memory of Ellen Anne Picotte



Gina Garry McCormick - March 20, 2017 at 10:53 AM

CB

“ *Carol Smith-Barrell & Gary Barrell lit a candle in memory of Ellen Anne Picotte*



Carol Smith-Barrell & Gary Barrell - March 19, 2017 at 05:24 PM

LC

“ *Ellen has always been a leader and 'take charge' person. One night a group of us were walking up Madison Avenue and a driver had himself wedged in the street, was holding up traffic and didn't know what to do. We all stood there watching except Ellen. Without hesitation, she ran out in the street like a traffic cop and within 5 minutes had everything fixed. I was astounded.*

In addition she was beautiful and had an amazing soul.

Lisbeth Calandrino - March 18, 2017 at 02:20 PM

SS

“ Ellen was a special person. I knew her thru our mutual real estate businesses. Although we worked for different firms and I didn't get to see her on a daily basis our work together was a delight for me. She was honorable and forthright. We would always have good battles representing our individual clients but then we would always have time for good conversation at the end. She always was doing something interesting like hiking all the trails or spending summer time going fun adventure places. She was easy to talk to and open in sharing her fun life. I loved talking to her. She loved historic homes as do I and there was always some cool tidbit to discuss whether it was just about a great old house or her running or what board work she was doing. She represented our Greater Capital Board of Realtors and served on volunteer committees. I got to spend time with her over years at volunteer luncheons and enjoyed seeing her at various events around town also. She always made me smile and was simply good people. She had a great positive energy all around her. She will be sorely missed and not forgotten.

susan I sommers - March 18, 2017 at 07:12 AM

SS

“ Susan L Sommers lit a candle in memory of Ellen Anne Picotte



susan I sommers - March 18, 2017 at 06:54 AM

JM

“ *Deepest sympathy to Jim and Ellen's extended family and wide circle of friends. Ellen was truly one of the best, both professionally and personally. A great, great humanitarian and overall beautiful human being. She helped me so much over the past decade and a half and with my last real estate transaction in November. I will miss her humor and smile. Love always.*

Jill Malouf - March 17, 2017 at 12:51 PM

LD

“ *Ellen was a freshman at "628" and I was a senior. Age didn't separate our sense of humor and the laughs we had. I was glad to have reconnected with her about a year ago thru and email exchange and delighted she happily married into a family from St James (my grade school). To all her family be kind to yourself thru this process of loss.!*
Leslie Dykeman

leslie dykeman - March 17, 2017 at 09:45 AM


Michele
Murphy

“ *Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jim and family on Ellen passing. Ellen was a kind, generous, and supported friend with a great sense of humor. She supported me during my illness and always made me laugh. We spent many late nights playing shuffle board after our softball games and we never lost. She would run the Race for the Cure with me and always encourage me to keep going. I will miss the annual visits to Yankee Candle to buy Christmas gifts. I never saw Ellen happier than the day she married Jim. Ellen I love you and will miss you. RIP.*

Michele Murphy - March 17, 2017 at 08:42 AM

MM

“ Ellen was a kind, generous, and supported friend with a great sense of humor. She supported me during my illness and always made me laugh. We spent many late nights playing shuffle board after our softball games and we never lost. She would run the Race for the Cure with me and always encourage me to keep going. I will miss the annual visits to Yankee Candle to buy Christmas gifts. I never saw Ellen happier than the day she married Jim. Ellen I love you and will miss you.



Mickey Murphy - March 17, 2017 at 08:35 AM

EP

“ Our deepest condolences to your family from everyone at the Freihofer's Run for Women. Your tremendous commitment to the event through the years will always be fondly remembered.



Edward Parham - March 17, 2017 at 08:33 AM

DN

“ Ellen, your memory will always be a blessing to me and all those who loved you. We will miss you dearly !!!

Danny Nerenberg - March 17, 2017 at 06:51 AM



“ *Ellen was a ray of sunshine in this world. I have known Ellen all my life and she always had a big contagious smile on her face and my life is richer for having known you. You will be greatly missed. My deepest sympathies to Jim and Ellen's entire family. Love you Ellen.*

Matt Ruch - March 17, 2017 at 04:02 AM



“ *Ellen Ann was a wonderful, lovely, vivacious person. During my adult life I frequently ran across Ellen. She was consistent in every aspect of living. Always a great smile, upbeat and engaging. A person one enjoyed bumping into. She always made me feel good. Her enthusiasm was so refreshing. Truly a great loss. Dan Lanzetta*

Dan Lanzetta - March 16, 2017 at 04:33 PM



“ *Ellen was one of the most ethical and professional agents I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Ellen and I shared an office together when she first joined us at Prudential Manor Homes. When I took over the role as the office manager Ellen was quick to support me. She never ever missed our monthly one on one business planning meetings. We not only worked together we also hiked and did a few 5K's as well as 3 triathlons. Ellen was quite an athlete and inspired me as well as a number of others in our office to push ourselves. We all did and we accomplished so much more than any of us thought possible. She taught us all so much about being ourselves, about embracing life and what life throws at you. Thank you Ellen from the bottom of my heart. You will never be forgotten and your spirit will continue to shine through all of those that were fortunate enough to have had you in their life. Rest in peace Ellie.*



Charles Colehamer - March 16, 2017 at 04:10 PM

TK

“ Joel and I offer our deepest sympathies on Ellen's passing...she was a life force all her own. Strong, smart, fun-loving, forthright and loyal, she was a blessing to those who knew her. She lived in the moment and made great use of her time and talents. Our deepest condolences to Ellen's family and friends...
Teri and Joel Howard

Teri Kleinmann - March 16, 2017 at 01:53 PM

NM

“ We shall never forget her smile, warmth and humanity; nor her acts of kindness and generosity, many of which I'm sure most of us never knew about. Albany is an emptier and sadder place today! -
Martha and Neil Murray

Neil Murray - March 16, 2017 at 12:30 PM

LS

“ Ellen was a special, bright and shining soul who will be missed by everyone who was lucky enough to know her. Our condolences to her family and friends.
Linda & Frel Smith

Linda Smith - March 16, 2017 at 10:33 AM

PC

“ Ellen remains a trailblazer for our entire community. My prayers and condolences for Jim and the Picotte family.

Peter G. Crummey - March 16, 2017 at 10:09 AM

RG

“ Please accept our heartfelt condolences on the passing of dear Ellen. Her big heart and kind soul reached out to so many people in the community. We had so much fun looking at houses with her, and enjoying her great sense of humor and quick wit. We love you Ellen, and will always keep your memory in our hearts. Rest in peace dear friend. We pray that your family is comforted by he many people whose lives you've touched. Russell Genna & Mark Ross

Russell Genna - March 16, 2017 at 10:05 AM

PM

“ I was privileged to know Ellen. Though we only occasionally saw each other, I will cherish the memories of her sharing her many life adventures and feeling warm and comfortable in her presence. I am grateful to have been her pal.
My deepest sympathies.

Paul McDonald

Paul McDonald - March 16, 2017 at 09:54 AM

DT

“ Jim and family, I send my deepest condolences on the passing of Ellen. Ellen was truly a very special woman with a huge heart. She was extremely devoted to her family, friends and her special causes. I had the honor of knowing Ellen and working with her at Berkshire Hathaway these past few years. There was not one time that she wouldn't help or give or expertise advise when I needed her. Her support, help and knowledge was greatly appreciated. She truly was an amazing woman and will be missed greatly by all who loved and knew her. I am definitely one of them. My thoughts and prayers go out to all of you during this very difficult time. RIP Ellie! Never forgotten, always loved and truly missed! 🥺



Donna Toussaint - March 16, 2017 at 09:08 AM

JS

“ I always admired Ellen as areal estate agent who possessed an amazing amount of knowledge and someone who was a pleasure to work with. She was a true professional that others in this business should strive to emulate. In addition to that, Ellen was funny as all get out. She could always be counted on for a jibe or comeback that would make my day. I will truly miss Ellen.

Joe Sullivan - March 16, 2017 at 08:46 AM

GM

“ Thank you for a life time of sweet memories. I wil miss you always.

Gina Martin - March 16, 2017 at 08:33 AM

LN

“ Ellen or as we called each other for over 50 years Ugabear, I will miss you and you will always have a very special place in my heart. From school to softball to golf and on and on you always made me laugh and everytime I think of you I will always smile and the memories that I have with you will stay in my heart forever. I will miss you ugabear. Love you uga always have always will.

Liz Nardacci - March 16, 2017 at 08:20 AM

PM

“ What a great lady and what an accomplished life. I have known Ellen since 1998, working for the same real estate company, and I must admit, never did I think she was this age, she was so fun, active, fearless and loyal too. I will forever miss her presence at our company events and am so sorry to all her extended family. I was so happy for Ellen when she called me personally to tell me how excited she was to finally be getting married, said she never dreamed she would find someone that she adored as much that had so much in common. My heart to goes out to you all, thoughts and prayers

Pam Marinello - March 16, 2017 at 07:55 AM

PM

“ Jim and family... I'm so sorry for your loss. Ellen was simply incredible. Roma and I will miss seeing her at the softball games. I hope that your pain passes swiftly and memories last a lifetime. She will definitely be missed by so many people - her heart was full of joy which touched so many of us. - Pat, Roma & Milan Mazzariello

Pat, Milan & Roma Mazzariello - March 16, 2017 at 06:43 AM

JP

“ *Joan Pavelka lit a candle in memory of Ellen Anne Picotte*



Joan Pavelka - March 15, 2017 at 09:52 PM

CB

“ *Ellen, you have been an inspiration to so many. Your passing is a tragic loss to all that have had the luck to know you. We hope that you are enjoying yourself with a kayak jaunt, hike or triathlon. We will never forget you and Jim standing up for us at Abbey Rd in England. Our memories of you will be cherished forever in our hearts. Love you now and always. Carol Smith-Barrell and Gary Barrell.*

Carol Smith-Barrell & Gary Barrell - March 15, 2017 at 08:23 PM

JK

“ *Josephine Knack (Berkshire Hathaway). I worked with Ellen for the past two years, she was an inspiration to us all and a breath of fresh air at the office . She will be greatly missed*

Josephine Knack - March 15, 2017 at 07:29 PM

BH

“ Jim, Bill, Dolan and Picotte Family--
Ellen Anne (EA) and the Picotte/Hughes family go back to many special days at WRCC, Chestnut Hill and Fiddlers Lane. There have been so many unbelievable memories back to our youth that it would be impossible to list them all here. I am so sorry that Ellen Anne has passed and will be will be greatly missed. However, we can find peace in knowing that Ellen Anne did have an extraordinary persona and made a significant impact on everybody she touched throughout her life. I will miss her greatly. My thoughts are with you all during this difficult time. Go EA--rest in peace.
Brian Hughes a/k/a "the Bub"

Brian Hughes - March 15, 2017 at 02:41 PM

MC

“ So very sorry for your loss.
I met Ellen playing softball for the Washington Tavern in '73. She was always so full of joy & fun to be with....a very unique spirit and beautiful soul that will be greatly missed by all.

Mary Anne Crane - March 15, 2017 at 01:39 PM

BG

“ So very sad to hear this news. Our prayers and thoughts go out to you all. The Graber Family

Bridget Graber - March 15, 2017 at 10:40 AM

MS

“ I am so sorry for the Picotte family's loss. Ellen was a wonderful person and a caring and active part of our community. She will be dearly missed.

Mayor Kathy Sheehan - March 15, 2017 at 09:27 AM

NC

“ *Bill, John and Michael--
Sending prayers for you in your loss. Fond memories of working
with you all and contact
over many real estate years with beautiful Ellen.*

Nancy Ciprioni

Nancy Ciprioni - March 15, 2017 at 09:09 AM

JT

“ *I am so sad that Ellen has passed, we had many a laugh and she
was a joy to everyone. So sorry for your loss*

janet trombly - March 14, 2017 at 08:23 PM

 Lisa
Hanifan

“ *Memories from many years ago working with Ellen and Nancy on
their Landmark business venture and reconnected many times over
the years. I will miss her dearly for all the laughs we shared. May
Nancy and all her family be comforted with her life well-lived. She
was a gem!*

Lisa Hanifan - March 14, 2017 at 06:31 PM