



Maryanne Lee Ennis

FEB 4, 1939 - FEB 25, 2022



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 7
Tribute Wall	Page 8



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Florist note- please deliver any floral arrangements to the Lewes Funeral Home on Thursday March 10, 2022 between the hours of 10 AM and 4 PM.

LIVE STREAM ADDRESS FOR FUNERAL MASS-

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC2vnHlr2UccJsultv_Xrzhg

FAMILY REMEMBRANCES WILL BEGIN AT 12:45 PM AT THE CHURCH JUST PRIOR TO MASS.

Maryanne Lee Ennis age 83
Lewes Delaware

Dedicated Educator and Community volunteer

2/4/39-2/25/22: Passed at Home in Lewes DE, as a result of complications from pancreatic cancer. Daughter of Major General Daniel Preston Lee & Catherine Desmond Lee of Wilmington. She was the first of their four children.

Maryanne attended catholic schools in Wilmington & Public Schools in Seaford. She graduated from St. Elizabeth's High School in 1957.

Beginning at an early age, Maryanne started working for the family business, Delamore Dairy. She went onto work at Kates Advertising of Wilmington, and Capitol Airways as an International Stewardess.

She graduated from the University of Delaware in 1962 with two degrees in education. Following her student teaching experience, she was offered a full-time position as a teacher at the Stanton Elementary school. Her straightforward and direct teaching approach prompted her to send a



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note to each student's parents in which she stated, "I will believe only half of what I hear goes on at home, if you believe only half of what you hear goes on in school."

At the conclusion of her first year, she hand-made pottery mugs for her students, with a sketch of each child's face on their mug.

Maryanne saw opportunities presented by desegregation in the Delaware school system. Upon reading the Department of the Public Instruction's (DPI) published plans, she identified many gaps which she felt needed to be addressed. This prompted her to create her own desegregation plan. As a result of her plan submission, the News Journal published it for public discussion. This resulted in her inclusion on the "Desegregation Implementation Committee". With her participation, several of her recommendations were included to improve the final draft of the plan.

She went on to a role in Public Relations for the National Job Corp center in Port Deposit MD.

Maryanne had an endless love of children and made everyone she met feel like they were the most important person in the world. After raising three children of her own, she returned to teaching at Burnett Elementary School in Wilmington. During this portion of her teaching career, she constructed a large sandbox in her room, to create an archeological dig experience for her students.

At Christmas time she would take many of the students to the Concord Mall and provide them money to buy presents for their family members.

Later in her career, motivated by her and her family's love of camping, she organized weekend visits to Cape Henlopen with many of her students, several of which had never visited the ocean before. She finished her teaching career working with students at Claymont Elementary School.

While raising her family and living in the suburbs of Wilmington, she became concerned by the rust in the tap water provided to her neighborhood by the Wilmington Water Company. To make her point, she began saving rusty water in her children's "Similac" formula jars to demonstrate the poor quality. Eventually, armed with bundles of rusty water in these jars, she went to the mayor's office in Wilmington to formally complain. It wasn't long after that, the city approved the funding and updated the service lines to her community.



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Throughout her life she served on numerous volunteer committees, among them were Edgemoor School Fall Fair Committee, Mt. Pleasant Jr. High PTA President, River Road Swim Club board member, CCD teacher at St. Helena's church. She was a founding member of a community revitalization group, called Fox Point Association. This was an umbrella group of 14 neighborhoods located between the City of Wilmington and Claymont, that worked toward improving the many neighborhoods and community spaces.

One of the results of these efforts, was the idea to promote more state preservation of open space, and the connectivity of new and existing public properties. This helped lead to the establishment of the Delaware Greenways non-profit organization.

Having moved to Lewes, DE after retirement, Maryanne became involved with St. Jude's Church and was a member of the Eucharistic Adoration Committee. She also served on the Lewes Historic and Scenic Byways committee.

In line with her conservation efforts, she was a leader of a coalition of residents that worked tirelessly to preserve a portion of open space now known as Great Marsh Park in Lewes.

Some of her most memorable life experiences included attending JFK's Inaugural ball, a trip to study abroad in Europe, being elected May Queen at the U of D, whitewater rafting in Colorado and Laying on a bed of nails as part of a science demonstration. (the latter two after age 60).

One of her greatest loves was gathering friends and relatives during the holiday seasons at her home. Maryanne always put others wishes before her own. She went out of her way to be welcoming and loving to everyone she met. From family, friends and the Baa Baa group to lost cats and people.

Some of her simple pleasures were visiting Williamsburg, gardening, kayaking at Lewes beach, This Old House, the Magnolia Network and a York Peppermint Patty!

She is survived by her husband of 58 years David H. Ennis, their children, Eric Ennis (Beth Ann) Hockessin, Elizabeth Ennis (George Terrell) Lewes, and Sean Ennis of Wilmington. And the light of her life Granddaughter Kylie Marie-Vetterer Ennis.



Obituary

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She is also survived by her Brother D. Preston Lee Jr. (Linda) of Lewes DE., and her sister Christine Marrone (Harry) of Wilmington.

She is further survived by her three step-grandchildren, Sarah Terrell (Julia-Salas), Michael Terrell (Jessica) and Baby Cohen, & Brian Terrell.

She was predeceased by her parents, Major General and Mrs. D. Preston Lee. She was also predeceased by her younger brother Ensign John E. Lee, in a naval flight accident in the Mediterranean Sea in 1965.

Maryanne will also be remembered by many dear cousins, nieces and nephews.

Disclaimer: This Obituary was written by her family and would not have been approved by Maryanne as she would have preferred to limit her obituary to 5 sentences or less.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Brandywine Valley SPCA or a charity of your choice.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Friday March 11, 2022 at 1:00 PM at St. Jude The Apostle Church, 152 Tulip Drive, Lewes DE where visitation will begin at 10:00 AM in the church. Interment will be private at St. Peters Cemetery, Pilottown.




Events


Maryanne Lee Ennis

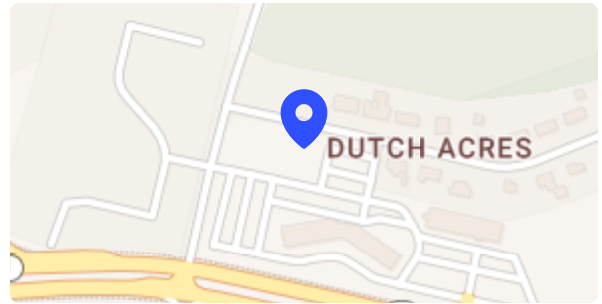
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Visitation


 **Friday**, March 11, 2022

 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM ET


 **St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church**
152 Tulip Drive, Lewes DE



Mass of Christian Burial

 **Friday**, March 11, 2022

 1:00 PM ET

 **St. Jude The Apostle Catholic Church**
152 Tulip Drive, Lewes DE





Tribute Wall

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O'regan posted:

Sincere condolences to Dave, Eric, Elizabeth, Sean, Preston, Christine and all who loved MaryAnne. Remembering with fondness the time we spent in her company when she visited Ireland. Peter, Gretta and family.

March 12 at 11:08 AM



Nadine Wick posted:

An incredibly strong woman who worked hard to make Lewes a better town. You will be missed!



March 11 at 4:31 AM



Love Your Power Family sent a Basket of Memories to the Ennis family.



March 10 at 9:14 AM



Lynn Thompson posted:

To Dave and family, it's been quite a while since our paths have crossed, but you were the best neighbors and friends while living in Wilmington. Maryanne was the kindest and most beautiful person I knew. I loved babysitting (for Eric) so many years ago. My prayers and wishes go out to all of you with fond memories. Lynn (Ennis) Thompson

March 9 at 10:24 AM



Love, Matt & Terri Harbin sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Ennis family.



March 9 at 5:18 AM



Anonymous sent an Enchanted Cottage to the Ennis family.



March 7 at 5:50 AM



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CP

Carol Pfordt posted:

To Dave and your family... I am sending you my heartfelt condolences for your loss. Maryanne was an extraordinary lady who shared her warmth and generosity effortlessly. I was so lucky to meet you, Maryanne, and your delightful children a few years ago, as you were getting to know my daughter, Sheila, and her young daughter, Vivian. You and Maryanne generously let me "adopt" one of your furry lost souls, an adorable black and white kitten who you had appropriately named Scout. All this was some time ago, but I have never forgotten your kindness, generosity, and how you welcomed me into your home. ... You are all in my prayers as you navigate this difficult time. My hope is that warm Spring days and cherished memories will comfort you. Fondly, Carol Pfordt

March 3 at 10:22 AM



Anonymous sent a Rays of Light Spray to the Ennis family.



March 3 at 4:55 AM

CS

Connie Sadusky posted:

Dave and family, I send sincere sympathy in your loss. What were the chances that I walked my little friend to Saint Thomas' and later became connected through our mutual concern for others. Marianne was so talented and with you at her side, made good things happen. I hope the coming days are filled with beautiful thoughts, she certainly was a dear and beautiful person.

March 2 at 12:44 PM

CW

Connie Winner posted:

Dear Dave and the Ennis Family: Please accept my sympathy on the passing of Maryanne. 58 years of marriage is a great tribute to Maryanne and to you, Dave. All of you are in my thoughts and prayers. Connie Winner (DTCC retired)

March 2 at 10:32 AM



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John & Bonnie Croney posted:

Our condolences to Dave and the family. Maryanne had a rich full life with more ups than downs. She touched so many other lives and probably changed a few. But she kept moving forward. Now, surrounded by GOD's glory, she is a peace. Nicely done Maryanne, nicely done.

March 2 at 10:26 AM

IV Iris Vinokur March 3 at 8:08 AM

Dear Dave and family, We are deeply saddened to learn of Maryanne's passing. She was a beautiful woman both inside and out. We have so many fond memories of the two of you when we were just a young married couple living in Kynlyn. Our deepest sympathies. May her memory be a blessing. Iris and Jack Vinokur

EE Elizabeth Ennis March 3 at 4:58 AM

Thank you for being such a comfort, especially these past few weeks.



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Ennis family.



March 2 at 8:10 AM



Donald Lafashia posted:

Moo. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dxkH_S2auoQ Moosie

March 2 at 4:04 AM

DL Donald Lafashia February 26 at 9:49 AM

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikJQC9pCa0M>

EE Elizabeth Ennis March 3 at 4:32 AM

She would've loved this! Thank you for being there. Beth



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Maryanne by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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