



Mary "Brooke" Steinle

February 24, 1943 - July 9, 2020

Mary "Brooke" Steinle, age 77 of Rehoboth Beach, DE and formerly of Pawcatuck, CT, passed away peacefully on Thursday, July 9, 2020, at Beebe Hospital, in Lewes, DE. She was born on February 24, 1943 in Philadelphia, PA, daughter of the late Charles A. Jr. and Laura Lee Owens. Brooke was the granddaughter of the late Charles Allen Sr. and Mattie Byrne Payne Owens of Wilmington, DE and the late Dr. Roy Franklin Corley and Henrietta Palmer Bailey of Smyrna, DE. Dr. Corley was Lieutenant Governor in the 1930s.

Brooke attended primary, junior high, and high school in Chagrin Falls, OH, graduating in 1961. She received an Associate's Degree in Liberal Arts from Stratford College, Danville, VA, in 1963. Brooke worked in Human Resources for most of her career in Delaware and Connecticut. She retired from Connecticut College in New London, CT in 1996, where she was the International Students' Advisor, Coordinator of Services to Students with Disabilities, and the Assistant Director of the Writing Center.

From the age of 9 or so, Brooke would accompany a dear family friend, Gini Laurie, to the polio unit at the Cleveland Clinic, in Cleveland, OH. Gini lost three siblings to polio when they were children and because of this, she devoted time to the patients at the clinic and happily took her young charge, Brooke, with her. Mrs. Laurie established a small magazine for those leaving the clinic to keep everyone in touch. Brooke made several friends there and would go to the Laurie's house where Gini and her husband, Joe, would entertain those with polio and other problems that had caused them to lose the ability to use their limbs, or the ability to breathe properly due to paralysis of their diaphragms. Even though the patients had graduated from their cumbersome iron lungs, some of them had portable iron lungs to use. Brooke, Gini, and other volunteers would take the people in attendance into the Laurie's backyard swimming pool where they could move about a bit in the water. When she graduated from Stratford College, Gini hired Brooke to assist her with had become the Toomey J Gazette. She and Gini compiled articles and stories (mostly contributed by the paraplegics, quadriplegics, or others with similar disabilities), and printed the magazine at the Laurie's home. Gini and Joe were her parents' dear friends in Chagrin Falls, and Brooke thought of them as her "second set of parents".

Brooke was an active member of the Village Improvement Association (VIA) in Rehoboth Beach, DE from 2002 through 2011. She was also a member of the Rehoboth Art League (RAL) and the Rehoboth Bay Sailing Association (RBSA). Previously, Brooke was an active member of The Lutheran Church of Our Savior (LCOS) in Rehoboth Beach, where she was instrumental in establishing the ESL (English as a Second Language) program. She belonged to several bridge clubs and book clubs, which she thoroughly enjoyed. Brooke was also an active member of several civic organizations, such as the Stonington Junior Women's Club (where she received an award for outstanding new member her first year and Woman of the Year her second year) and the Southeastern CT Child and Family Services Organization, while living in Connecticut for 30 years. She was active in both of her children's PTA's throughout their primary and high school years, as well as Sports Booster Club when they were in high school. She loved animals, especially her loyal canine companion, Bear.

Brooke was diagnosed with T-Cell LGL (Large Granular Leukemia) with Neutropenia/Anemia, a rare type of leukemia, in 2007. She spent 3 months in 2007 receiving blood transfusions; again for 2 months in 2008 and for 5 months in 2014. Dr. Srihari Peri, her oncologist, recommended a clinical trial at the National Institutes for Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD in the fall of 2014. Although her type of leukemia would never go into remission, the Campath treatment with this trial did bring her counts into positive readings.

Above all, Brooke cherished time spent with those she held most dear. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend who was loved by many and will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

Brooke is survived by her beloved husband of 53 years, Frederick Richard "Dick" Steinle of Rehoboth Beach, DE; her son, Rick Steinle (Pamela) of Pittsburgh, PA; her daughter, Molly Kristofak of West Hartford, CT; her grandchildren: Brett Steinle of Pittsburgh, PA, Charlie Kristofak, and Megan Kristofak, both of West Hartford, CT; her sister, Lee Wiley (Larry) of Chagrin Falls, OH; her brother-in-law, Alan Steinle (Lorraine) of Wilmington, DE; several nieces, nephews, grand nieces and nephews, and great-grand nephews; and her dearest friends, Vicki and Steve Beshore of Norfolk, VA.

All services will be private.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in Brooke's memory to the American Cancer Society for Leukemia Research: PO Box 22478, Oklahoma City, OK 73123.

Please sign Brooke's online guestbook located on this site.

Comments



“ Dear Dick, My name is Mary Ellen Senn and I was dating Ric Buchanan when you and Brooke got married. She was such a warm loving person and I always remembered the way you two looked at each other. I believe we all stayed at your parents home one New Years Eve and went to Bob Ching's to celebrate. I was so sorry to read of Brooke's passing and extend my sincerest condolences.

Maryellen O'Neill - October 22, 2020 at 01:55 AM



“ Dick, Our sincere sympathy to you and your family on the loss of Brooke.

Tom & Lydia Webb
Rochester, NH

Tom Webb - July 22, 2020 at 06:43 PM



“ Dear Dick, Molly & Rick: We are saddened to read of your loss of Brooke. We always enjoyed having you as neighbors on HUBbard St. Brooke was always a very special person will always treasure her friendship.
My God Bless and take care of you at this difficult time.
Sincerely, Joseph & Meredith Pappadia

Meredith Pappadia - July 19, 2020 at 02:19 PM



“ Molly,
My thoughts and prayers are with you and your whole family during this difficult and very sad time. From reading your Mom's obituary, she sounds like an incredible person. Hugs to you, Charlie and Meghan.
Karen Abels

Karen Abels - July 17, 2020 at 01:38 PM



“ Dear Dick and family, I am so sorry to learn of your loss. I am keeping you all in my heart and prayers. In sympathy, Wendy J Cahoon, Westerly Swim Team.

Wendy J Cahoon - July 16, 2020 at 02:43 PM



“ Dick and Rick and Molly - I remember the good times I had with Brooke playing Bridge, which I did terribly, but her encouragement anyway. The 'ladies' had fun. Also remember the time she and I ventured to New Hampshire to visit my daughter and henceforth had lunch and a lot of talking. Also a lobster Christmas dinner, at our house without children. Sending our hugs to the entire family. Love Ed and Elaine Smith, Stonington, CT.

Elaine Smith - July 16, 2020 at 10:01 AM



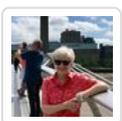
“ Brooke, Judy Williams, and I played together constantly when we all lived on the same block in Chagrin from ages 8 and 9 to about 10 and 11. Brooke was year older than Judy and I. We would take all of Lee's cosmetic bottles and tubes and make outlines of doll houses and make up all kinds of scenarios, for hours. We also acted out the characters of a series of books that we all read. Brooke played the smart one of the trio. Our close friendship began to dissolve when her family moved to another part of Chagrin Falls. I remember those days together fondly. Lee Brown (back then I was known as Lolly)

Lee Brown - July 14, 2020 at 04:00 PM



“ Our sincere sympathy to the Steinle Family.

The Fred Pepper Family of Milton - July 13, 2020 at 09:30 PM



“ Brooke was a really fun class member. My warm condolences to her family and friends!
Tracy

Tracy Moore - July 13, 2020 at 05:44 PM



“ Too many memories to share. I met Brooke my first day of Stratford College at age 17. We lived next door to each other and became fast friends. We played a lot of bridge and laughed a lot. We went to see her parents when on vacations in their different homes and their summer cottage.

She was I my wedding in 1966 and then I was in hers when she married Dick. We both had two children. In fact it was her son Rick who taught our daughter to tie her shoes. My husband Steve, Dick, Brooke and I went on sailing trips together with a lot more laughter.

Our friendship has lasted all these years(sixty).

As BFFs we tried to help solve each other's personal problems as well as all the world's problems!

We visited in each other's homes and knew each others children!

Brooke was a large part of my body and my mind and I feel like half a person without her. The thought of never being able to talk to her again In unimaginable!

We stayed with her when she was at NIH and watched how brave she was thru all the treatment! She wanted to see Molly's children graduate from higher school and Rick 's son graduate from college!

After the death of their beloved lab Isobel Brooke adopted a little terrier named Bear which she adored!

We read a book years ago that had two young girls in it that committed themselves to each other for life they called Themselves YOS (your old same). We started signing this on all our cards and texts to each other! The last text I have from her was Sat the 7th and it just said YOS! I think she was saying goodbye!

So goodbye for now but not forever! YOS

Vicki Beshore

Victoria. eshore - July 12, 2020 at 01:56 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Dick and the family at this time. We always enjoyed seeing Brooke at our sailing club dinners.

Sharon and Hugh MacRae

SHARON MACRAE - July 12, 2020 at 10:19 AM



“ We will miss Brooke. She was our generous and kind next-door neighbor for over 20 years. She taught me to play bridge and we shared lots of good times together. She loved all animals, especially her little Terrier, Bear.

don and Faith Lord - July 12, 2020 at 08:49 AM



“ We will miss our neighbor Brooke. She was so welcoming and kind. I will miss her positivity and love. Rest In Peace Brooke

Dixie Newman - July 28, 2020 at 08:26 PM



“ Brooke was my hero growing up in Chagrin Falls..our families were very close and we all,had such fun together. She was so kind and great to be with..putting up with my sister and me. Such great memories, I know she will be missed by so many people. Rest in peace with Bunny and Gee!

suzi Bartholomew McClelland - July 12, 2020 at 02:20 AM



“ So very sorry to hear of Brooke's passing. Brooke was a year ahead of me at CFHS, I will always remember how friendly and nice she was....happy I was able to connect with her on face book after all these years. My heartfelt sympathy to her family and with sweet love to her sister, Lee. May our God of wrap His arms around you and hold you tight.

~janice hill~

janice hill - July 11, 2020 at 09:26 PM



“ Brooke was one of the first people I met when I moved to Lewes. Always had a smile. We shared lunch a couple of times a year. Loved going to her parties....especially Christmas! I'll miss her.
This is just hard to believe. Prayers for her family.

Carole Neal - July 11, 2020 at 09:22 PM



“ Brooke was one of the first people who welcomed me to Chagrin Falls High School, when I arrived there as a sophomore. After graduation, we went our separate ways. It was a profound pleasure to re-connect on Facebook...especially as we agreed about so much Thinking of Brooke with love and admiration.
Samantha Epperson Hess

Samantha Hess - July 11, 2020 at 08:41 PM