



Eleanor Marie Hellner

November 3, 1926 - December 17, 2017

Eleanor Marie Hellner of West Hartford, 91 years young, passed away quietly and with dignity on Sunday, December 17, 2017 surrounded by her loving family. Eleanor was born on November 3, 1926 in Grove City, PA to her parents Pasquale and Lucia Perry. After graduating high school she worked in the pathology lab of Bashline Hospital. Eleanor married the love of her life William R. Hellner, a Mechanical Engineer in 1954. Eleanor and Bill moved to West Hartford in 1967 where she was employed for many wonderful years on the St. Timothy Middle School staff. The school, staff and students brought her great joy. Eleanor was an accomplished watercolorist, passionate reader, nature and animal lover, seasoned world traveler, elegant dinner hostess and devoted guardian angel of her family. She was driven by an intense intellectual curiosity, sustained by her religious faith, and compelled to contribute to many charitable causes. Eleanor loved to laugh, tell stories, spend time with family and friends especially during the holidays. She spent her last Thanksgiving surrounded by family and friends, winning at word games, laughing, telling stories and being Mom and Nana to us all. Eleanor is survived by her brother Jon; daughters Chris, Ricki, and Nancy, her son Dave; seven grandchildren; four great grandchildren. She is preceded in death by her beloved husband, William and eight siblings. A mass will be held for Eleanor at The Church of St. Timothy, 1116 North Main St., West Hartford, CT on Thursday, December 21, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.. A Celebration of Life and internment will take place in the Spring. In lieu of flowers donations may be

made in memory of Eleanor M. Hellner to St. Timothy Middle School, 225 King Philip Drive, West Hartford, CT 06117. <http://stmswh.org/eleanor-hellner-memorial-donations/>

Previous Events

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC 21. 10:00 AM (ET)

Church of St. Timothy
1116 North Main St
West Hartford, CT 06117
(860) 233-5131

Tribute Wall

DH

“ I would like to thank everyone who has shared memories and offered condolences and would like to share with you the eulogy from Eleanor’s Mass yesterday (12/212/2017):

"Thank you for coming to this celebration of Eleanor’s life. For those that don’t know me, I am Eleanor’s son, Dave.

When Eleanor passed on Sunday, we weren’t ready...but it was her time to go.

Eleanor’s journey started 91 years ago in a small western Pennsylvania town. I know her family faced some tough challenges but she never dwelt on that. She did, however, talk about the fun times she had as little girl... hunting for pearls in the freshwater mussels of Wolf Creek, helping her dad with his garden, and enjoying her brothers’ pranks. It was a tight knit family of ten kids and two loving parents that always seemed to find a way to move forward.

Eleanor eventually crossed paths with a young engineer from Pittsburgh, fell in love, got married and left that small Pennsylvania town but she always remained closely tied to her brothers and sisters.

Eleanor was a great mom; she was tough but fair, she was skeptical sometimes, and she never gave in easily to demands from her kidsbut she was always there to teach, and guide, and demonstrate what was really important in life.

Eleanor was creative, artistic, and poised. She loved to read, she loved to travel, and most of all...she loved to decorate and put together a feast whether it was a holiday or not. She loved her husband, her children, grandchildren and her great-children and kept photos of them everywhere. She loved her family very much and was proud of them. Eleanor was passionate in her faith in God and knew that her family was a gift from Him...a gift to be treasured.

Time eventually took its toll on Eleanor's body but she rarely complained and refused to give in despite the obvious pain. Holiday meal duties shifted to my sisters but Eleanor always insisted on helping them. It finally came to a point where Eleanor needed far more care from others and she couldn't reciprocate. I know this was hard for her...she reluctantly stepped back from her role as guardian angel of the family as other angels stepped into the breach. My sisters and their families are those angels. They re-arranged their lives to care for Eleanor, to take her out, and to keep her engaged with the ones she loved. Thank you!

Another group of angels stepped up too...the professional home health care providers...Christine, Arlene, Dorothy and Sharon. They worked with patience and compassion to help Eleanor stay as long as possible in her home. "Team Ellie" carried the ball over the line. We are forever grateful for that team.

Eleanor first entered this church over 50 years ago.

She's been here for countless Masses, weddings, and funerals.

And today, Eleanor is herefor one last timebefore she's reunited with her parents, her brothers and sisters, and with my Dad.

Mom – We weren't ready on Sunday...but you knew it was your time to go.

You've had a long and wonderful life. We're proud of you, we love you and we're grateful for all that you've done.

Good bye and thank you. We will miss you dearly."

Dave Hellner - December 22, 2017 at 10:52 AM

DG

“ Chris, Ricki, Dave and Nancy,
It is with tremendous sadness that I read about your mom. Certainly I spent my share of time at her home celebrating holidays, having sleepovers, and learning to make lasagne. She will always have a special place in my heart, as will all of you, the Hellner children. My heart is heavy knowing that she has left this world. I send my love and condolences to each of you.
Debbie Cohen Grainsky

Debra Grainsky - December 20, 2017 at 10:41 PM

DG

“ Richarda,
Your mother always made me feel so welcome in your home, making us pasta soups and delicious homemade eggnog. She was a wonderful women. I'm so sorry for your loss. I'll remember her fondly. -Diane

Diane Giardi - December 20, 2017 at 09:09 PM

NS

“ Nelson Morales and Sodexo purchased the Dreams From the Heart Bouquet for the family of Eleanor Marie Hellner.



Nelson Morales and Sodexo - December 20, 2017 at 05:39 PM

JP

“ To Chris, Ricki, Nancy, Dave and to your families,
My heartfelt condolences go out to you all, Your mother was a
special person who always brightened the room she was in. I'm so
sorry for your loss, but we know where she is.
Jamie

Jamie Perry - December 20, 2017 at 03:25 PM

CO

“ 26 files added to the album *Out and About*



christiane obrien - December 20, 2017 at 03:14 PM

CO

“ 5 files added to the album *Gathering of the Cousins in Glastonbury 2017*



christiane obrien - December 20, 2017 at 01:57 PM

NJ

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



njh - December 20, 2017 at 01:54 PM

CO

“ 4 files added to the album July 24, 2016



christiane obrien - December 20, 2017 at 01:29 PM

NJ

“ 1 file added to the album New Album Name



njh - December 20, 2017 at 12:56 PM

NA

“ Nancy lit a candle in memory of Eleanor Marie Hellner



Nancy - December 20, 2017 at 12:37 PM



“ Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eleanor Marie Hellner.



December 20, 2017 at 11:26 AM