



Michele Urben Farley

August 2, 2023

MICHELE URBEN FARLEY, feminist and former Hartford communications executive died August 2, 2023. Ms. Farley was 75.

Ms. Farley was predeceased by her husband, Phillip Edward Norton, of West Hartford where the couple lived for many years. She was born in Elgin, Illinois the daughter of Rosalie McCoy Farley and Philip Urben Farley, and spent her early years in Evanston, Illinois. She went to boarding school at Kemper Hall in Kenosha, Wisconsin the first two years of high school and graduated from Roycemore School in Evanston. She went on to Loyola University-Chicago, graduating magna cum laude.

Following college, Ms. Farley was an editorial assistant to the fashion and beauty editor of the Chicago Tribune. She moved to West Hartford in 1976 and was a freelance writer for Trahey-Rogers Advertising in New York City. In 1977, she joined United Technologies as only the second woman in its corporate communications department. At UTC, she honed her skills as a writer and communications professional.

She continued as a corporate communicator at Travelers Insurance Company, responsible for financial communications, employee communications and public relations. In 1994, she joined Phoenix Life Insurance Company to head up all corporate communications and was later promoted to Senior Vice

President, a post she retired from in 2010.

In retirement, she became an accomplished painter in oils, pastels and watercolors as well as an artful rug hooker.

Following three years of peritoneal dialysis, Ms. Farley successfully received a kidney transplant at Yale New Haven Hospital on February 1, 2013.

She is survived by a sister, two nieces, six step grandchildren and four step children and their spouses.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the National Kidney Foundation. If you would like to donate please visit <https://www.kidney.org/>. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Tribute Wall

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“ Michele was an absolute tireless supporter of professional women. Her visits and emails brought a smile to my face because I always knew we were going to have some sort of passionate discussion and enjoy the pros and cons of dreaming up solutions to solve the world's problems. I was away when she passed and missed an opportunity to say goodbye which saddens me. I have all her emails from our communications over the last decade plus especially the 3 years she had dialysis and we lamented together on the limitaitons of the healthcare system. It is so hard to describe her spunk and spirit - she will be missed greatly

Rebecca Andrews - August 06, 2023 at 01:28 AM