



Ellen J. McEwen

October 14, 1948 - March 7, 2023

It is with heavy hearts that we say goodbye to Ellen Jane McEwen ("Shorty"), a woman who impacted many lives in her 74 years. Daughter of William McEwen and Leticia McEwen (nee Hodder), Ellen was born on October 14, 1948 in Pittsburgh, PA and passed away peacefully on March 7, 2023 with her family by her side.

Ever the academic, Ellen received her B.S. in Education at Ashland University and her Master of Arts at Ohio State University, before moving on to become the Director of Athletics at many colleges across the country, including Elms College in Massachusetts, Huston-Tillotson University in Texas, UW Fond du Lac in Wisconsin, Salem College in North Carolina, and Fairleigh Dickinson University in New Jersey.

Ellen's love of athletics carried into her personal life, as she was an avid sports fan both as a viewer (football) and player (volleyball, golf). Ellen also loved reading (especially mysteries), music (she had a beautiful singing voice), British television, puzzle books, and travel. In addition to living all over the country, Ellen has also traveled the world.

She is survived by her sister, Rebecca Nedz (spouse, William) and Rebecca's children, Pamela Quigley and Douglas Furko. She is also survived by Pamela's children: Michael (spouse, Nick), Justin, and Erika; Douglas's

children Brittany (spouse, Sean), DJ, Sierra, and Dylan; as well as Brittany's children Cassidy and Patrick.

She is also survived by the thousands of student athletes who she taught throughout her career, who she always affectionately referred to as "her kids," as well as the many great friends she made all over the country. The family also wants to send a special thank you to Nick and Gretchen, who provided an abundance of compassion and support for Ellen in her final days.

We all grieve the loss of an incredible, brilliant, and strong woman who positively impacted the many lives mentioned here. Her legacy lives on through the connections that have now been built between these many lives over great distances. We encourage even those who did not know Ellen to simply ask "What would Shorty do?" if you are ever in times of struggle. She always had the answer and we have faith that she will continue to provide the answer by watching over and guiding all of us.

Thank you for all the positivity you brought to this world, Ellen!

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, from 2 - 4 PM, at the D'ALESSANDRO FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY LTD., Butler at 46th Sts., Lawrenceville. www.dalessandro ltd.com.

Family requests donations to ASCPA or Plant A Tree in Ellen's memory.

www.dalessandro ltd.com

Previous Events

Visitation

MAR 16. 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM (ET)

D'Alessandro Funeral Home and Crematory Ltd.
4522 Butler St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Memorial Service

MAR 16. 3:30 PM (ET)

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Pittsburgh, PA 15201

Tribute Wall

DW

“ Mac and I were best friends in high school. She was always Mac and I was Carp. Whilst my grandson was recently helping me to "downsize" my closets, I ran across my Penn Hills High School yearbooks. Looking back through them, I ran across everything Mac had written to me almost sixty years ago.

Oh, did we have fun together both in school and out, spending many nights sleeping over at each other's houses, singing everywhere we went, laughing 'til our sides ached, and planning our lives. Mac introduced me to Mount Union College, (now University), where she'd applied, as I knew only that I wanted to be somewhere smaller than our huge hs with almost 1000 in our graduating class. We thought we'd room together as she aspired to be a PE teacher and I an elementary teacher. That plan didn't work out, unfortunately. She headed off to Ashland and I to Mount but we still stayed in close contact, seeing each other during the year and most summers.

In 1970, Mac was the MOH in my wedding. We saw each other only occasionally after that and as our lives took us in different directions, we lost contact. Both of us realized those dreams though, that we wrote our in our "Senior Profiles", she as an educator and administrator, and me putting in thirty years as an educator both at the the elementary, junior-high, and college levels.

Reading Mac's words to me in that long-ago published yearbook made me want to reach out to her again, just to say hello. My heart sank when I discovered she'd been called home on my birthday this year. In our yearbook, Mac wrote these words to me: "Carp -- This isn't going to be the full page because it would be useless to try to recall everything we've done together, or what we both mean to each other. Friendship is the greatest thing in the world, without it and love, this would be a pile of shambled rock. No words could express the meaning of true friendship and I'll never try either. We both always knew when to leave each other alone and when we needed each other super badly. There have been so many times

when I've been on the verge of a nervous breakdown and you've always reasoned with me and pulled me out of death's dark realm. Thanks for being the friend you are. I hope our friendship never dies. God Bless. Love, Mac"

Well, dear friend, I pray that Angels fly you to your Eternal Rest. One of these days, I'll see you on the other side. Until then, I'll remember you fondly, with love and happiness. God speed Mac. Carp (Diane Carpenter Warstler)

Diane Carpenter Warstler - June 28, 2023 at 11:31 AM

TA

“ *Ellen, Homie I am going to miss our conversations with laughter and snacks. Thank you for your kindness and support to me and my family. So glad we got to see you in December! Grateful that God brought you into our lives. We'll keep the legacy of love going with Michael & Nick and the rest of the family. May God gives us all strength to get through this difficult time. I can't believe you're gone. RIP Ellen. ❤️*

Tanya - March 15, 2023 at 09:43 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Ellen J. McEwen.*



March 15, 2023 at 09:38 PM

MK

“ It was such a pleasure to meet and befriend Ellen when she worked at UW-Fond du Lac. I enjoyed her great spirit and appreciated her kind heart. She always had a positive attitude and found the good in those around her. We kept in touch each year with a holiday letter and card. One year I received a check in her card and I thought what is this about. Apparently, when she lost her job and had some health issues, I had given her some money to help her thru that difficult time. I had not even remembered that. In her card she said I had made it clear that it was a gift without any expectation of repayment, but she was in a better financial situation then and wanted to express her gratitude by repaying the money. That was Ellen. She was such a fine person and will be missed. My condolences to her family and all those who loved her.

Marilyn J Krump - March 15, 2023 at 05:26 PM

BM

“ Bob worked in the athletic building at UWFDL with Ellen. We kept in touch with her via phone and cards since then. When she moved from north Carolina to Austin Texas she asked if I would make the road trip with her. We made some great memories on that trip. We'll miss her calls and well wishes. Rest in peace Ellen. We will miss you. Bob and Sue McIlraith. Oshkosh WI

Beb and Sue McIlraith - March 13, 2023 at 08:35 PM

NA

“ It was a pleasure to have known Ellen at Elms College. She always had a smile and positive attitude. I am sorry for your loss. Nancy Davis

Nancy - March 13, 2023 at 06:39 PM