

Ellen (McGee) Canavan

July 4, 2023



Newburyport - Ellen (McGee) Canavan of Boston (formerly of Needham, Newburyport, and Rockport) passed away peacefully at the age of 81 on July 4th, 2023 - a fitting date for such a civic-minded, patriotic woman.

Born in San Antonio, Texas while her father served in the U.S. Army Airforce, her family would go on to move extensively throughout the United States for her father's career with Shell Oil Corporation. After attending Regis College in Weston, MA, Ellen settled in the Boston area to raise a family. Intelligent and driven, Ellen earned a Master of Education from Boston College, and a Master in Public Administration from Harvard University.

Actively involved in local and state government, Ellen was most proud and honored to have served four terms, from 1981 to 1988, as an elected Massachusetts State Representative for Norfolk District 13 (Needham and Dover). She also served on the Rockport Board of Selectmen from 2008-2011, where she was noted for her "spirited independence."

Ellen's love of the ocean led her to move from Needham and reside full-time on Plum Island, Newburyport, and later in Rockport, MA.

Ellen was a true animal lover, owning a menagerie of pets over the years, including a talking scarlet Macaw and her most recent love, a King Charles Cavalier, named Sir Winston.

Ellen is predeceased by her parents, Edward F. and Eleanor M. McGee Jr., and her brother, Edward F. McGee III. She is survived by her daughter, Elizabeth (Beth) Mulhern, son-in-law, Michael L. Mulhern, son, Michael Canavan, and daughter-in-law, Nancy Macrina Canavan. Ellen had a special place in her heart for her six grandchildren: Kevin, Matthew, and Clare Mulhern, and Katie, Chris, and Patrick Canavan.

A private burial service and celebration of life are being planned.
To send a note of condolence or to share a memory, please visit
<https://www.eatonfuneralhomes.com/>