



Ellen Elizabeth Stepp Harper

March 12, 1948 - November 15, 2020

Ellen Elizabeth Stepp Harper, 72, of Croaker passed away on Sunday, November 15, 2020 at Sentara Williamsburg Hospital. She was born in Long Beach, CA and had lived with her family in Williamsburg since 1957. Ellen attended Matthew Whaley Elementary and James Blair High School. No one was surprised that Ellen was voted “Most Intellectual” of her Senior Class as well as Editor of the school newspaper. Ellen won the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Scholarship to attend William and Mary College. Ellen earned a BA in English and an MA Ed in Special Education from William and Mary College. In 2014 Ellen retired after 44 years developing the minds of countless children teaching in Williamsburg James City County Public Schools.

Ellen was preceded in death by her parents, Alice and Adrian Stepp, Sr. She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Dennis Harper; her cat, Kutza; her chicken, Myrtle; brothers, Adrian Stepp, Jr. (Diane) and Barry Stepp; nieces, Leslie Saunderlin (Steve, Liam), Amy Oddy (Matthew), Ali Hudgins, Madison Stepp, and Erin Stepp. Ellen is also survived by Bert Ellis Hargrave (Kyu), Betty Faris (Jimmie), Luther Farinholt, Jr., Trisha Farinholt (Sheldon Parker), John Farinholt, Richard Farinholt, Gerry Bowles (Harry), Glen Holloway, and countless friends and relatives.

Ellen had individual style, always owning her uniqueness with confidence. She loved sports, shopping, beach music, and spending time in the Outer Banks with her cousin Trisha. Ellen never had a hair or lipstick out of place.

Ellen will be greatly missed. Her body put up a valiant fight for so long and her

spirit is now soaring – free of pain, full of the light and love of God.

A private interment was held Thursday, November 19th in Tabernacle Memorial Cemetery, Barhamsville, VA. Memorial donations can be made to the Heritage Humane Society, 430 Waller Mill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185.

Tribute Wall

PR

“ *Ellen was an exceptional teacher and mentor in WJCC schools. I feel privileged to have worked with her and gotten to know her on a professional level. After we both retired in 2014, I would see her in the waiting room at my father-in-law's doctor's office and we would catch up. Ellen always looked incredible! I am certain she is 'styling' in heaven.*

Patricia Riggleman - November 29, 2020 at 03:48 PM

DH

Ellen is Styling in Heaven! Thank you for your kind words and she is missed dearly. Dennis Harper/ her husband 🙏💔

Dennis Harper - May 23, 2021 at 02:49 PM

NL

“ *I worked a few years with Ellen at Stonehouse and will treasure my time with her. Dennis she spoke of you often with such joy in her voice and big smile on her face. She told me how you spoiled her and how she loved it!! I am truly sorry for your loss. She can now rest easy in her new strong body walking those golden streets with her Lord.*

Ellen worked harder than anyone for the children put into her care and they were so fortunate to have her on their side and in their lives.

Our lives are richer for having known her and I pray the wonderful memories you have will help you through the coming days.

*Be blessed,
Nancy Lewis*

Nancy P. Lewis - November 23, 2020 at 10:58 AM

DH

You are so kind. I know she was a wonderful teacher for many years /44 to be exact but most of all she was a wonderful loving person, and my wife. 33 years of marriage. ❤️🙏

Dennis Harper - December 03, 2020 at 09:40 AM

CH

*“ Ellen was a friend of mine for many years
Our families stayed together and went to church together. We had many of good times together. Rest in peace dear friend. Carol Ann Hall*

Carol Hall - November 22, 2020 at 07:48 PM

BC

“ Ellen was one of the most outstanding special education teachers I met in my career. I remember fondly all of the official meetings, lunches, and talk times we shared at Norge Elementary. May she Rest In Peace. May the perpetual light shine upon her.

Barbara Bridges Churray - November 21, 2020 at 09:34 PM

JC

“ Jonathan & Donna Chandler lit a candle in memory of Ellen Elizabeth Stepp Harper



Jonathan & Donna Chandler - November 20, 2020 at 07:54 PM

MB

“ Chris and I send our deepest condolences to Ellen's family and friends. We loved her very much and will miss her greatly. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Meg & Chris Bruno

Meg Bruno - November 20, 2020 at 12:24 PM

MB

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Meg Bruno - November 20, 2020 at 12:22 PM



“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Thomas Harper - November 19, 2020 at 11:00 PM



I am so sorry for your loss ! Part of our family for over 33 years ! She was a winner and you were a lucky man! She will be missed !

Thomas Harper - November 19, 2020 at 11:05 PM

BD

“ *Billie Dean lit a candle in memory of Ellen Elizabeth Stepp Harper*



Billie Dean - November 19, 2020 at 09:32 PM