



Ellen R. Heritage

January 10, 2023

Sarasota lost a native daughter on January 10, 2023, when Ellen R. Heritage passed away unexpectedly. She was born in Sarasota Municipal Hospital, now, Sarasota Memorial, in 1951, and grew up in Sarasota. She graduated from Sarasota High School where both parents, at various times, were educators. Her mother, Dottye Heritage, taught business courses, and her father, Jack Heritage, transitioned from teacher to prominent Realtor and city commissioner. Ellen graduated from Florida State University, majoring in advertising and public relations and was active in her sorority, Kappa Alpha Theta. After college, she launched a career in real estate working with her father at Heritage Company of Florida. Thereafter, she joined Michael Saunders & Company where she made many lifelong friends and colleagues. Ellen's untimely passing prompted Michael Saunders to say: "As a longtime beloved member of our family, Ellen will be greatly missed. She was not only a real estate professional to the core, but also a kind, gracious and exceptional human being."

Ellen was married to Mark Avery for thirty five years and it was a partnership in every sense of the word. When not in Sarasota, Ellen and Mark would spend months at their second home in Wisconsin on Lac Courte Oreilles where they accumulated a wide circle of new friends to augment those back in Sarasota. Ellen was a lifetime learner, constantly taking courses to acquire new skills. She demonstrated mastery of the most intricate details of real estate, as well as many artistic endeavors. She was known for offering her time, talents and gifts to others. She always acknowledged birthdays, anniversaries and other special occasions with originally created greeting cards often including personal photos she took at the celebrated event.

Ellen is survived by her husband, Mark; siblings, Billye Stampelos (Charlie) of Tallahassee; Ben Heritage (Susie) of Bradenton, FL; Dena Mims (Greg) of Clyde, NC; sister-in law, Marjorie Geshwilm (Steve) of Houston, TX; nieces, Nicole Geshwilm of Denver, CO and Natalie Marshall (Ross) of Houston, TX; nephews, Jackson Zeigler (Suzy) of Rincon, GA; William Zeigler of Tallahassee, FL; Jackson Heritage (Taylor) of Loveland, OH, and Jay Heritage (Samantha) of Clyde, NC; grand-nieces, Ellie Heritage,

Avery and Arden Marshall; and grand-nephews, Charlie Marshall and Hugh Zeigler.

The family would like to acknowledge the love and dedication exhibited by Ellen's friends, Phyllis Garfinkel, Joni Dickinson and Lori Palmer, especially during the last few days of Ellen's life.

There will be no formal service but a memorial contribution for Ellen may be made online to: Meals on Wheels of Sarasota at mealsonwheelsofsarasota.org or by mail.

Tribute Wall

KC

“ I just decided today to click on Ellen Heritage to see what would come up and was so sorry to hear of her passing. I will tell my son, Michael, tonight as he thought Ellen was a super person even thou he was only about 7+ years. I moved to Sarasota in 1971 and started working as a receptionist for Jack. I got my license, my broker's license and worked for Jack and with the Heritage crew -- until 1977 when I moved to Texas to put my daughter, Michelle, in special school for her learning disabilities. It was amid a lot of tears that I left the Heritage Company. So many great memories and people. Jac k - his family - Ellen - she was just getting started in business then, Paul Root, Charles Wilke among some I worked closely with. My prayers for you all - thanks for all the great times, memories and I just was going thru a trunk today - have about 5 or so award plaques - I am in a senior place now. Can't believe Ellen passed before me. My prayers for you all. Those days were the best. love and prayers, Kathleen Cox - 1971-1977.

Kathleen Cox - April 21, 2023 at 05:53 PM

RC

“ CONDOLENCES TO THE HERITAGE CLAN. I ENJOYED WORKING WITH THE HERITAGE FOLKS WHEN THE OFFICE WAS LOCATED ADJACENT TO MAAS BROTHERS. A FINE COMPANY TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH. SARASOTA LOST A CHERISHED RESIDENT. RIP ELLEN..

ROSIE CORRIGAN - February 02, 2023 at 08:05 PM

BC

“ To Billye and Dana and family of Ellen Heritage,
Heartbroken comes to mind to lost such a treasure. Ellen's mother and I were friends for many years, and the friendship passed down to Ellen. She was a beautiful person in every way, and she touched so many lives with her kindness and joy. She has left her life prints on all who knew her.
With so much sympathy,
Betsy Chapman

Betsy Chapman - January 22, 2023 at 12:10 PM

SS

“ Billye, I am so sorry for your loss. I knew your sister years ago through Panhellenic, she was lovely. Suzi Suarez Shea

Suzi Suarez Shea - January 22, 2023 at 09:36 AM

DD

“ Mark. Words cannot express our sadness over the loss of our Dear Ellen. Our friendship was just beginning but it felt like we had known her for a lifetime. As you and family go through your grief please know that our thoughts, prayers and love are with you. She will be sorely missed. Love, Debbie and Terry

Deb Degrio - January 22, 2023 at 08:46 AM

DG

“ Mark, Joan and I were shocked when we heard the news. While the time was way to short, we were so blessed to have her be a part of our lives. As Joan said, she knew the first time she met her that they would become great friends. She was a true treasure and her passing will leave a hole in our hearts.

Love. Dean and Joan

Dean Grossmann - January 21, 2023 at 05:56 PM

JD

“ Dear Mark and family,
Gene and I are heartbroken for you all hearing about Ellen's passing. Ellen was such a wonderful person and bright light to so many. I enjoyed all the times we spent together with our friends and Dotty. Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers. We wish you comfort and peace in the days to come. May Ellen rest in peace with her mom and dad.

Love, Jeanette & Gene

Jeanette Donohue - January 19, 2023 at 10:03 PM



“ Our hearts go out to Mark and his and Ellen's family. She was always a gracious and kind person with so much class! She will be sorely missed.

Sue and Dave P

Sue Pommenville - January 19, 2023 at 07:13 AM

DS

“ A great loss to all of us. As I sit in my living room and see the beautiful egg she created and gave me, it just makes it that much more special.

Dan Smith

DAN M SMITH - January 18, 2023 at 03:59 PM