



Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne

December 27, 1964 - July 1, 2017

Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne was born December 27th 1964 and passed away peacefully on July 1st 2017. She was the fifth of six children born to Eileen and Gerald Donovan. Her family lived in Sterling Heights, Michigan, where her father served as the city's first mayor.

Eileen loved telling her children stories about her childhood shenanigans. She would talk about how when she shared a bedroom with her older sister she would mess up the bed because she knew it would make her sister so angry or how her older brother would put buckets of water on the doorframe and call her into the room so the bucket would empty on her head. She would talk about how she and her siblings would have no-holds-bar battles in the car when her mother left them in the car to go shopping. She recalled caravanning across the country with her parents and little brother fondly, and loved telling people about all the places she had been as a child. Eileen always gave as good as she got and recalled her childhood with nostalgia and good humor.

She graduated from Central Michigan University and became a first grade teacher in Detroit. She loved to tell stories about teaching first graders in a trailer in the parking lot because the school was overcrowded. Later in life, she changed career paths and began to work as a specialist in real estate for Weichert Realtors Excel. She loved her job and the people she met there became life long friends.

Eileen met David Ballantyne, her husband, at Central Michigan University in 1989. They hit it off right away due to their common interests and shared values. They were best friends, life partners and soulmates. They married within two years of meeting each other and went on to have three children.

Eileen was an enthusiastic volunteer for her children's school, St. Lawrence. She was an active member of St. Lawrence's PTA and was always ready to lend a hand at church or school. She never missed an chance to help out in the classroom or volunteer to chaperone a field trip. At every opportunity she impressed upon her children a love of learning and a desire to lend a helping hand whenever possible.

She was her mom's best friend and shopping buddy. They spent hours at Kohl's and Costco together, buying Eileen's kids more clothing than they could ever wear and more food than anyone could ever eat. Little 'I' and Big 'I' hung out almost every day for thirty years. Eileen, her family and her parents spent almost every birthday, holiday, and most days in between together. Eileen made sure that her children had strong family relationships and great childhood memories. She was the glue of her family

Eileen is survived by her loving husband of 26 years, David Ballantyne, her three children, Alana, Connor, and Jack, and her siblings, Jeryl Anne (Tim), Margaret (David), Patricia (Creighton), John (Maria), and James (Christina). She was a loving wife, devoted daughter, sassy sister, loyal friend, and an excellent mother. She will be missed tremendously by everyone that knew her.

Visitation Thursday, July 6, 2:00-8:00 pm and Friday, July 7, 2:00-8:00 pm with a rosary at 7:00 pm at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 8459 Hall Road (3 Blks E. of Van Dyke), Utica. In state Saturday, July 8, 9:30 am until time of Mass at 10:00 am at St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 44633 Utica Rd.,

Utica.

Inurnment at St. Lawrence Catholic Cemetery.

Memorial donations may be directed to St. Lawrence Catholic Church.

Please share a memory at www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 6. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Visitation

JUL 7. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Rosary

JUL 7. 7:00 PM (ET)

Wm Sullivan and Son Funeral Home
8459 Hall Road
Utica, MI 48317
(586) 731-2411
utica@sullivanfh.com
<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Funeral Mass

JUL 8. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
44633 Utica Road
Utica, MI 48317

Tribute Wall

PC

“ Patricia Casper lit a candle in memory of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne



Patricia Casper - March 04, 2025 at 01:57 AM

PC

Hey Weener --- been a while since I wrote. LOTS has happened since my last post, but I think about and pray for you every day! We missed you at Dad's 90th and then Mom's 90th "girls trip" weekend. You would have loved the house Peggy found in FL, though, I'll bet you and Alana would have gotten the room I had - Alana got stuck with the bunk beds! LOL!! I know you were there for Alana's wedding ... you would have been so happy! She was such a beautiful bride - looking more like you than ever!! It was bittersweet not having you there but David gave a beautiful talk about your lives and the love of your children; there was not a dry eye in the place. The boys and Alana have grown up to be such amazing young adults and I know they miss you as we all do! Hard to believe it's been almost 8 years since you went to heaven. As they say - the pain is not nearly as present, but the memories are! :-)

I retired (early) and am adjusting to that whole world - some days better than others. I asked Mom what she did since she also retired at 62 and she said she had your kids to take care of - they were still so young. What a blessing to have been able to be such a part of her beautiful grandchildren's lives! BUT I don't have any kids/ grandkids - so finding something to fill the days is a new challenge. I volunteer for my church - and they had some great events for their 150th Jubilee that I helped with - and then the Walk For Life this past January - but now its quiet. SOOOO must find something else to do! Anywho, I miss you every day and pray you are watching over us and guiding us to do the right thing - I still have hummingbirds visit me almost every day (and get quite stressed when I don't - ie when in Michigan, I am visited by Cardinals instead of hummingbirds and I know that you are there - reminding me that you're never far away. You are always in my heart and I love you forever! xoxo Patty

Patricia Casper - March 04, 2025 at 02:19 AM

MG

“ *M Gallagher lit a candle in memory of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne*



M Gallagher - January 09, 2024 at 09:19 AM

PC

“ *Merry Christmas Eve Eileen. Love you to the moon and back! Always and forever in my heart!
xoxo your big sister Patty!*



patricia Casper - December 24, 2019 at 07:42 PM

PC

“ *8 files added to the album 2019 memories*



patricia Casper - December 24, 2019 at 07:40 PM

PC

“ *Patty Casper lit a candle in memory of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne*



Patty Casper - January 11, 2019 at 05:38 PM

PC

Hi Eileen - its me Patty. I've been thinking of you a lot lately with your b-day Dec 27 and 1.5 years since you went to Heaven on Jan1. It def. was not as difficult as last year, but I still have my moments, like last night. But first, just wanted to tell you that I think of you and pray for you and the kids and David every day. I had a plaque made for you at St. Dominics and I can visit you every day if I want since I can't visit you in MI. I think you'd like it and would love St. Dominics -its like the OLD St. Lawrence only bigger with more stained glass windows. So Beautiful - the plaque arrived on Dec. 9 and took my breath away. I had been waiting for six months for it - so when I walked around the nave to the columbarium and saw that they had added new names - knew you were there and right in the middle. It's a perfect place for you! Center of attention! I was there on NYDay to see you, for mass and to light a candle - they have these huge candles that last 2 weeks and you can write on them - so I do and send you a prayer and happy thoughts. There is always a candle lit for you at our church. So last night - it was an out of the blue emotional night - caught off guard, but couldn't stop crying; then came home and wrote a poem of how I was feeling - it was the last two pages of the pad of paper with all my other poems - I was thinking maybe you were sending a message that it was time to forgive myself and move on! I will in my own time so be patient, but then I dreamt about Jack & Connor - strange dream as dreams are but happy they are in my thoughts. I wish I heard from them all more often but know that your 20s are your time to get away from parents and OPs .. so I'll be patient and hopefully in their 30's they'll appreciate us OPs more! :) I can't believe I'm calling myself an OP! We did all go to JDs for Thanksgiving - all except Alana - but it was good to see everyone and I'm sure nice to have a different scenario for Dave and the boys. JD's place is beautiful - I'm so sorry you never saw it! :(Our kitchen turned out ok - there are a few things that just don't quite work - but I pretty much checked out of the process since I thought it was never going to happen - and for that my bad. But it's nicer than it was so hooray for 15 years of waiting and finally getting it done. There are two Es on the quartz counter top so I knew when I saw them that you were guiding me to get that piece and I LOVE that! Anyway, I'm hoping to get Jack out here this spring for his graduation present that he hasn't taken yet. I can't imagine what I'll do with that 6'9" bundle of joy, but it will be fun to have him here - esp. since he'll be 21 right? I think? You would have LOVED his beard. He looks so much like you and has your personality ... cracks me up! Connor is so darn handsome it takes your breath away and Alana keeps getting lovelier every day! She's quite the writer (oh my!) and apparently doing very well at MSU law! She wants to come to CA or NY and finish her law degree in entertainment law! Hope she comes west! Anyway, I'm at work and just came from daily 12N mass, but just wanted to pop in to tell you I love you and miss you every day. You have left a hole in my heart (one of my poems) and the world will always be just a little dimmer because your

light is not shining in it! Love you always Weener! xoxoxx

patty casper - January 11, 2019 at 06:50 PM

PC

“ *Patricia Casper lit a candle in memory of
Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne*



Patricia Casper - September 17, 2018 at 11:34 AM

“Hi Eileen - how's heaven today? How's Piper, Tana and Arrow? have you seen Karen and nana and grampa? How about the Aunts and Uncles? I'm sure you guys are all having a Donovan Days picnic up there every weekend! I spoke to mom yesterday - she went to see Allie act the part of Shelby in the play Steel Magnolias. Mom said she was great (of course) and was all sassiness and spunk! Sounds like Allie! She also said she cried her eyeballs out at the part where Shelby passes and the mom is left behind. Of course she felt it like it was yesterday - and as we all know, children are not supposed to pass before their parents. She cried as she told me and I cried too - sometimes it seems like it can't possibly be our life and you not in it. I still see and feel you almost every day and of course pray for you every day - and while its not always as painful or as sad anymore, sometimes it just feels like I am suffocating and can't breathe! I was in MI in July for your memorial, and there were no hummingbirds there (strange) so I feel like you were with me in the butterflies and fire flies (none of those in CA) and even a cray cray bee that would not leave me alone! You were there as I walked those silly lovable puppies. Kaycee is a spaz but REALLY smart (as you know) and Mardi well - she's a big goofy puppy and a total scardy cat! They loved to snuggle in the AM - it was the best part of being there besides getting to visit you every day and water your garden of angels home. I did get the kids a frame full of pictures of you and them - I hope they liked it and it didn't upset them. Same with the jewelry I got them - Alana a necklace with a heart and a mother of pearl butterfly, and the boys a leather bracelet with Gods message on it. So funny, when I gave them the bracelets we were at mom's and Jack had the 'get your head in the game' bracelet on and said ' my mom gave this to me and told me if I want to be great I have to get my head in the game' I didn't want to tell him that I gave you all those bracelets and t-shirts after the walk I did here in SF at the Golden Gate Park for the National Brain Tumor Association. He needs to keep that memory alive and I hope the frame helps do that too. I know they all have so many beautiful memories of you in their heart, but I felt like they could take this with them wherever they are and smile at the beautiful memories you

created - some of which I got to be a part of. I will always love you for allowing me to be their God mom! :-)

Work is pretty strange these days. We have a new agency and I pray that they are not replacing what we do! I just have to be cool and go along with it - I have the largest HL events and that's what they've come in to run! Ruh Roh! :-x Pray for me to last a few more years here.

Finally, we are doing our kitchen reno. It was supposed to take 3 weeks and we are now into our 4th week... argh! for a galley kitchen. But its definitely more than a 'just replace the appliances' job as you used to tell me to do all the time! the ceiling and all of the walls were torn off and now we are waiting for the dry wall stuff to dry (taken a week with a heater on it - not sure why!) I think they dry walled over the greasy mess that was the side of the stove - I hope now - but maybe that's why it's not drying - too greasy!

Anywho, I've got to get back to work - I was just thinking of you - as I do every day and thought I'd send you a note! I go to mass every day (or as often as work schedule allows) and pray for you and the kids, David, Mom and Dad, CC & family & friends. I'm still waiting for your plaque at the columbarium at St. Dominic's to be put up so I'll have my own Garden of Angels with your name to visit here in SF! And like the garden of angels, they have to wait until there are six souls gone to heaven/plaques to make before they carve them all! I love you always and miss you EVERY day! xoxo

Patricia Casper - September 17, 2018 at 11:33 AM

PC

“ Hi Weener - I lit a candle for you on Easter Sunday at St. Dominic's - and God's grace was pouring through the stained glass windows making the church illuminate with color. It was so beautiful and I prayed for you and the kids and David - hoping we all find peace and knowing in our hearts that you are cherished and loved in Heaven and missed dearly on Earth. CC and I went for a 10-mile walk about thru the City later in the day and came across a patch of lily's at the Palace of Fine Arts - they of course, reminded me of all the lily's you had planted in your yard and which, because of you, I now have in my yard too - they are a daily reminder of you and the loving touch you had with making things around you more beautiful. You are always in my heart weener. Every day! I love you to the moon and back! xoxo



Patty Casper - April 04, 2018 at 01:06 PM

PC

“ *Patty Casper sent a virtual gift in memory of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne*



Patty Casper - March 01, 2018 at 06:09 PM

PC

“ *Patty Casper lit a candle in memory of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne*



Patty Casper - March 01, 2018 at 04:19 PM

PC

“ *This was the video we created for Eileen. There are so many more memories to share of her beautiful life and family but this gives you a glimpse. Love you forever Weener!*

Patty Donovan Casper - February 01, 2018 at 10:11 PM

PC

“ *Patty Casper lit a candle in memory of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne*



Patty Casper - February 01, 2018 at 09:50 PM

PC

Hello Eileen, It's been 7 months today since you went to heaven and I wanted to make sure you know that I think about you EVERY day. So many things remind me of you and more importantly, I am trying to be a kinder, gentler Trish in your honor (Very difficult I might add). I found this radio station - KLOVE - and it's helped me through some very difficult days with its beautiful music and messages (I think you would probably be gagging at it), but I'm just trying to do anything I can that helps me think of you being safe and happy and surrounded by so much love AND still feeling all the love coming to you from all of us here on earth! I'm counting on you to keep us all believing that you are never more than a whisper away. Sister, I heart your heart! I will always miss you! Love you forever, XOXO Patty

Patty Donovan Casper - February 01, 2018 at 09:59 PM

PC

“ *Patty Casper lit a candle in memory of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne*



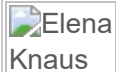
Patty Casper - July 27, 2017 at 01:12 PM

PD

“ *1 file added to the album New Album Name*



Patty Donovan-Casper - July 20, 2017 at 05:00 PM

 Elena Knaus

*Dear Patty and family,
I'm so sorry for your loss if Eileen. I was thinking of your mother recently because of a conversation she and I had when I was dating John. I am near Sterling Heights and wanted to call to thank her for influencing me positively. I just searched your parents and came across Eileen's obituary.*

In reading the obituary, it sounds as though your parents have passed as well. I'm so sorry.

I remember Eileen telling me she named her first born my name...I see she ended up having 3 beautiful children. Hugs to you all.

*Sincerely,
Elena Robertson Knaus*

Elena Knaus - October 15, 2017 at 10:09 AM

PC

Hello Elena - so lovely to hear from you - if you get this, please contact me at 415.730.4722 or patricia_casper@Comcast.net. My parents are still, Thank God, doing well - they are at 586.731.2817 (same phone #). Moved to Shelby Township 50136 Bethesda Court, I know my mom would love to hear from you! Please give her a call! and feel free to write, text, call me! XOXO Patty

Patty Donovan Casper - February 01, 2018 at 10:02 PM

“ My baby sister Eileen left this earth on her way to heaven way too soon. I am not prepared for a life without you but will cherish every moment I had with you - especially over the past two years while you fought so diligently to stay strong and beat cancer! You and your family worked tirelessly to find a way to stop it, and you should all be proud of how hard you worked to help your mom and wife. I know you made your own stories & memories with your family, but the stories and bonds we had growing up as two of our six sibling brood are unforgettable; the dreaded sharing of a room and massive bed wrecking room destroying fights (calling me Green Bean Breath sent me into a rage) or camping trips in the Apache up and down the coast – who shared which ‘cot’ with who in the non-AC’d trailer. I didn’t know you when you were in high school as I was in CA but wished I had as you seem to have been the life of the many parties you attended! Then you gave me the undeniable joy, honor and spectacular beauty of being asked to be the godmother or your and David’s three children; the Halloween parties and trips to the apple orchards and Corn mazes and fun houses and petting zoo with Cider and Donuts; and Thanksgiving weekend and the Christmas tree cutting snow ball fights the day after Thanksgiving; the ski trip to Colorado complete with fire alarms in middle of night and rosy cheeked exhausted skiers at EOD; all the soccer, bball games and track meets I attended with you boisterously cheering on the kids, celebrations that I will never forget and was so lucky and grateful to participate in. I looked forward to those events more with each passing year as I watched your children go from the sweetest most precious and precocious kids, develop into lovely, kind, generous, thoughtful, smart young adults. If only I’d lived closer, I would have been there even more than I was living half way across the country, and I certainly would have been there as much as you could have stood me during this valiant battle. You fought the good fight, Eileen, no one will ever say you didn’t. I miss you every day and wish you were here right now enjoying the cool fog of SF on your skin – or I was there in Detroit with all of you – sweating in the heat, planting your flowers, making taco’s, going to a game, walking in the park with Piper. I miss you & love you always & forever

Weener!

*Love Green Bean Breath
Patty*

Patty Donovan-Casper - July 20, 2017 at 04:45 PM

KM

Beautiful, Patty. Yes, she did fight the a good fight! Take care and go easy on the green beans! ;)

Kathryn McQuater - July 31, 2017 at 07:53 AM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.*



July 07, 2017 at 03:17 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.*



July 06, 2017 at 07:57 PM



“ *Garden of Memories was purchased for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.*



July 06, 2017 at 10:24 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.*



July 05, 2017 at 08:43 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.*



July 05, 2017 at 11:35 AM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.*



July 04, 2017 at 07:59 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.*



July 04, 2017 at 06:24 PM



“ *Bob and Chrisine Caraher purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.*



Bob and Chrisine Caraher - July 04, 2017 at 06:07 PM



“ *The VanMeer family Andrea, Morgan, & Hunter purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.*



The VanMeer family Andrea, Morgan, & Hunter - July 03, 2017 at 06:44 PM



“ *Guiding Light Bouquet was purchased for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.*



July 03, 2017 at 02:24 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne.



July 03, 2017 at 01:21 PM



“ Kathryn McQuater lit a candle in memory of Eileen Marie Donovan Ballantyne



Kathryn McQuater - July 02, 2017 at 01:18 PM



I am so saddened by I's passing. I pray you can all find some comfort in the Lord, whose home she now shares, free of pain and suffering. I will always remember my dear dear friend.

Kathryn McQuater - July 02, 2017 at 01:20 PM