



Mrs. Elizabeth Barbara McGowan

July 8, 1931 - December 30, 2020

Elizabeth Barbara McGowan was born in Portland, MI on July 8, 1931. She passed away on December 30, 2020. Liz moved from Portland, MI to Miami, FL in 1955, then Baltimore, MD in 1959, then Columbia, MD in 1960, and then to her final residence in Sykesville, MD in 1970. After 2004, Liz and her husband Frank spent winters in Sebring, FL becoming “snowbirds.”

A consummate mother and homemaker, Liz was an excellent cook/host and enjoyed preparing meals for her family and friends. Liz was a Cub Scout Den Mother to her son and neighborhood boys. Liz kept in touch with friends and family throughout the US, Canada, and Turkey by frequently calling and emailing with them. Liz had a kind heart and perhaps her greatest pleasure was keeping up with her friends and families lives. Liz worked and retired from the Bon Secours Spiritual Center in Marriottsville, MD as a secretary/receptionist.

Liz was predeceased by her loving husband of 61 years, Frank McGowan. Liz is survived by her son Ray McGowan and his wife Zeynep, and daughter Sheila Frisina. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Darren McGowan, Sean McGowan, Victor Frisina, and Anthony Frisina.

The family will conduct a graveside service on Saturday, January 9, 2021, at 12pm at Crestlawn Memorial Gardens, 2150 Mount View Rd, Marriottsville, MD 21104.

Cemetery

**Crest Lawn Memorial
Gardens**
2150 Mount View Rd
Marriottsville, MD, 21104

Events

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| JAN | Graveside Service | 12:00PM |
| 9 | <hr/> | |
| | Crest Lawn Memorial Gardens 2150 Mount View Rd, Marriottsville, MD, US, 21104 | |

Comments



“ I have been inspired by the touching obituary on the Haight Funeral Home site to share some of my memories of a much much younger Liz. She was still a teenager when I, a very needy little kid, was thrust for a few weeks at a time into the little house she shared with Grandma Nettie in Portland, Michigan. My mother spent weekdays living in Lansing, getting her teaching degree and I spent alternate periods of carefully negotiated time on the farm with my Grandma and Grandpa Stegenga or with Liz and Grandma Nettie in their cozy little house in town. I could be delivered to the school in town from either place.

They each had a room and they each shared their beds with me, which was pretty common at that time - they both always smelled good - lots of jars and spray bottles on their dressers - sometimes I got sprayed, too, and sometimes Liz let me rifle through her jewelry boxes. Liz was still in high school for a year or two after I arrived and she had giggly girl friends over - they spent a lot of time trying on clothes and going out. There were boyfriends who whisked Liz, rosy cheeked, bright eyed and laughing, off in their cars. Sometimes they took me up to the drive-in on the road to Lansing and bought me the best burger and fries in the world. Liz laughed a lot.

I moved away to Cambridge, Massachusetts with my mother and father but my mother and I took exciting trips back to Portland almost every summer on the bus or in an old rattletrap car. Our reunions with Liz and Grandma Nettie and my mother's family were always exciting - I never wanted to leave. On one of these visits, Liz, bright eyed, introduced me to a handsome young man named Frank McGowan, and it was pretty clear they were crazy about each other. And then one day Frank sat me down and kind of nervously told me that he was related to me, too. He was a cousin of my mother's, once or twice removed, and they used to work together during the summer at the Portland Country Club, which Frank had inherited. Frank seemed very pleased that we had that connection and I was thrilled, because he was very kind to me. I was there for the wedding, and I remember the excitement of Liz getting dressed (the garter and all that stuff). Then there were times when we were all there with Liz and Frank and Jerry and Jean and their little girls - Sherry, Sandi and Diane - lots of laughter, booze, cards, staying up late. By then Grandma Nettie had married Morris Shattuck, who also liked parties. At some point, Liz and Frank moved to Maryland and started their family, my mother and father bitterly divorced and my mother married Jack, so we didn't travel back as much. Jerry and Jean and family had moved to Detroit.

I regret that I lost close touch with my wonderful family for many years, as I was growing up, going to college, getting married, living in Thailand, moving to Canada and getting divorced myself. I was finally able to get over to Michigan more often after I moved to Ontario and happily reconnected with Jerry and Jean and Diane and Sandi and Sherry. I remember a wonderful trip to Maryland for Sheila's grand wedding where, as I recall, my dashing Uncle Frank sang with a country band. I had a happy reunion with Liz and Frank at their trailer in Florida - I drove down there from Tallahassee where my mother and Jack lived. Not too many years ago, I flew down to Maryland to meet Diane and Sandi and Sherry for a great visit with Liz and Ray and Zeynep and family and Sheila - I still remember that happy, celebratory, delicious crab dinner at Liz's favorite restaurant, followed by a kind of scary foggy drive back to

our motel, with Sandi bravely navigating at the wheel.

I am shocked to realize that I may now be the Eldest of this Sullivan/McGowan family unit. That makes me very sad because of what we have all lost and very humble because I remember the Grace and the Energy and the Skill and the Love of my Aunt Liz.

From Kathleen Sullivan

Kathleen Sullivan - January 10 at 10:37 AM



“ With love and sympathy, The Brannon Family purchased the Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- All White for the family of Mrs. Elizabeth Barbara McGowan.



With love and sympathy, The Brannon Family - January 08 at 10:04 AM



“ I have many memories with Liz but one of my fondest was riding the race cars around the track of the 12 hours of Sebring race. My husband Darrel (who was Franks golf buddy) and Liz and Frank and I were going to ride. Liz had just had surgery (I think). Something was wrong with her so she was afraid to ride. So she watched the three of us. Frank and I enjoyed it so much she decided she wanted to after all. So we rode again with her. I have pictures of her hanging on for dear life going around those curves at 90 mph but she is laughing all the time. Liz loved life and lived it to the fullest. She has been dearly missed in Sebring for a few years now. I hope I can live my life as fully and joyfully as Liz and Frank did.

Mary Bailey - January 07 at 10:37 PM



“ Sending love and light for your eternal rest. Thank you for your kindness always.

Cassie Heffernan - January 07 at 07:38 PM



“ Sympathy Arrangement In Basket (Large) - Multicolor Pastel Mixed Flowers was purchased for the family of Mrs. Elizabeth Barbara McGowan.



January 07 at 07:36 PM



“ LOVE AND SYMPATHY FROM YOUR COUSIN KATHLEEN purchased the Yellow & White Sympathy Standing Spray for the family of Mrs. Elizabeth Barbara McGowan.



LOVE AND SYMPATHY FROM YOUR COUSIN KATHLEEN - January 07 at 03:45 PM