



Margaret McKnight Murphy

November 3, 1960 - December 17, 2021

Margaret McKnight Murphy, a 32-year resident of Tinton Falls, New Jersey, passed away December 17, 2021 at the age of 61 following a long and courageous battle with breast cancer.

Margaret was born, along with her twin sister Ann, on November 3, 1960 in Green Point, Brooklyn, to parents Jim and Ellen McKnight. Along with her older brother Richard, they were raised in Broad Channel, Queens. Margaret graduated from Stella Maris High School in Rockaway Beach in 1978 and married her husband Eugene Murphy in 1979. They stayed in Broad Channel to start their family, and Margaret gave birth to their son Sean in 1982.

Margaret, Eugene and Sean moved to Tinton Falls in 1989. She started a decorated career in retail management, working first at Childworld and then Best Products, both in Eatontown. Following the closure of Best, Margaret landed at one of America's signature companies, Home Depot, where she served customers and colleagues for more than 22 years. Margaret started in the Millwork Department, eventually ascending to Operations Manager and Overnight Manager. But she found her passion in human resources, the business of people. One of Home Depot's core values is "Taking Care of Our People," and no one embodied this more than Margaret. She continued to move up the corporate ladder, leading HR at the district level, impacting each person she came into contact with along the way. A post announcing her

passing on Facebook was filled with comments from grateful colleagues. Margaret took care of Home Depot's people.

Margaret was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001, and together with her family, friends, and doctors, she beat it into remission. The cancer recurred in 2011, setting off a decade-long battle with the deadly disease. Margaret's final ten years were her most heroic. She fought cancer with poise, grace, and unmatched resilience. She never gave up, never wavered, and never complained. She was determined to be a survivor for her family and friends. She was a warrior, motivated, always moving forward with her head high and a smile on her face. She wanted to know how you were doing and what you were up to. She asked about your challenges. She celebrated your accomplishments, all while waging the battle of her life. Margaret was a beacon of hope, strength, and courage for everyone who had the pleasure of knowing her. She quietly inspired, and her impact will be felt forever.

You can't talk about Margaret without mentioning how much fun she was. She loved hosting parties for family and friends, including the inaugural Clam Bake, a massive fall-time neighborhood soiree straight out of a movie. She was always there, ready to welcome you, Coors Light in hand, with a big smile. The Clam Bake has been going for more than a quarter century. Margaret's peers in the Tinton Falls developments of Tinton Pines and Park Place were her second family, known affectionately as "Friends and Neighbors." Each generation was referred to by the first letters in the alphabet: Margaret was a founding member of the A-dults, her son Sean a B-dult, her granddaughter Charlotte a C-dult. It is an interesting group of people to say the least.

Margaret and Eugene were also avid cruisers on Royal Caribbean, Diamond Plus members (for those who know the Crown and Anchor system), and made many friends on those fun trips to Bermuda and the Caribbean Islands. They

also loved taking weekend trips to Paradise Stream in the Poconos. Margaret loved laughing, dancing, and partying with her family and friends. She became an active participant in fun runs with a special group of running friends. She would be joined annually by a huge contingent of supporters at the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk in Point Pleasant and naturally, the after party would be at her house with food, football, friends, and family. Her Christmas pajama party was a Friends and Neighbors staple, and the group was hoping to surprise her with one last singalong this year. Simply put, Margaret was a center of gravity, hosting barbeques and pool parties, Christmas Eve dinner and more. You could always find her sitting near her pool. When inside, she would root hard for the Giants, Mets, and Islanders. Family and friends filled her heart, especially her granddaughter Charlotte.

Margaret was predeceased by her parents Ellen and Jim, twin sister Ann and brother Richard. She is survived by her husband of 42 years Eugene, her son Sean, daughter-in-law Melissa, and granddaughter Charlotte. She is also survived by her sister-in-law Mary Murphy; sister-in-law Eileen McKnight (nee Murphy), her son Stephen, her daughter Peggy Capozzi (nee McKnight), her husband Jerry and their children Sophia and Anthony; brother-in-law Kevin Murphy, his partner Liz OSullivan and their daughter Olivia; brother-in-law Tim Murphy and his children Brian, Timothy and Samantha; sister-in-law Cathy Anne Conway (nee Murphy), her husband Michael Conway and their children Colleen, Owen and Bridget. Also surviving are three loving Ficarella cousins and a large extended family of friends and neighbors.

To honor Margaret's journey, we ask that you wear a touch of pink to her memorial visitation, which will be held 2-6 PM on Wednesday December 29th, 2021 at Bongarzone Funeral Home, 2400 Shafto Road, Tinton Falls, NJ 07712. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Cancer Society—Making Strides Against Breast Cancer (Margaret's Shamrocks) via

cancer.org or 1-800-227-2345.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

DEC **29**. 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM (ET)

Bongarzone Funeral Home
2400 Shafto Road
Tinton Falls, NJ 07712
(732) 918-6200

Tribute Wall



“ Words are absent from my mouth hearing a dear friend has passed, Margaret. Margaret was always Margaret ready to do for others and always with a smile. I will cherish the times we worked together, laughed together, and cried together. You always sent a kind word during my trying times. May you rest my dear friend you have won the battle. Toni Terry

Toni M Terry - January 02, 2022 at 08:37 PM



“ Serenity Wreath was purchased for the family of Margaret McKnight Murphy.



December 28, 2021 at 08:25 PM

“ Dear Mom-

I'm not sure where to start. You've meant so much to me that it's hard to put into words. You were always there to support me in my sports, endeavors, life's challenges and milestones. You were there for every soccer, basketball and baseball game, from rec league to high school. You made sure to be there even if you were supposed to be working. There was even that time when you were cheering me on during that basketball game when I had to stop midcourt and say, "Mom, I'm doing the best I can!"

I used to love visiting you at Childworld and Best bc it meant that if I asked enough times, I would leave with a new toy. You always made me earn it though by doing my chores, from emptying the dishwasher (which is still my job at 39 years old) to vacuuming to dusting. Dad and I always had a home cooked meal waiting for us to heat up if you were working passed dinner and I loved everything you made. I loved making our Christmas press cookies, mixing and rolling Nanny's meatballs and baking cakes with you. I learned at a young age that the phrase "move your feet, lose your seat" does not apply to you and "your" seat at the end of the couch...that was a sometimes a painful lesson that started with "the look" and ended with a "get up."

You always pushed to be better and realize my potential. You always made sure I completed my homework, did my projects (even though I did them at the last minute... always) and studied for tests. You were always there for help with that homework and to answer life's questions. When I went to college, you were sad but I made sure to remind you that I was only an hour away. And I think I was the one who was homesick more. Uncle Richard always made the joke that Home Depot was in trouble after your previous two employers went bankrupt and closed. But he knew that Home Depot was the lucky one and we all knew you'd flourish there. So much so that Dad followed you there after the NYC BOE and then I took a job there too. I will admit that I was probably given more liberties

there over the years because of how liked, respected and admired you were by everyone there.

I remember when I told you that I was getting a tattoo on college. You didn't believe me, especially when I came home without one. But the next week when I got it and showed you, you didn't seem to mind. You still showed the same love and support that you always did. When I told you that I wanted to become a police officer instead of a marine biologist, you didn't try to talk me out of it. You didn't try to change my mind or remind me of the dangers. You simply said okay, that's your decision and we will support you. You were there when I graduated the police academy and showed how proud you were. You were equally proud when I was hired full time with Eatontown in 2009 and was there to help me get sworn in. And when I called you that afternoon I September a few months ago and told you that I just made sergeant, you cried happy tears and said you were proud of me.

When I told you about a girl that I met at Mike Mesi's house back in 2005, you asked me questions about her. You wanted to meet her but you let me decide when. Of course I wanted to bring her around right away and you could tell how excited I was. When I did introduce you to Melissa, you immediately embraced her and made her feel at home. You made her feel comfortable, loved and accepted. So much so that you invited her and I on a cruise the next summer...and the summer after that. You spent the next 16 years treating her like your daughter, not just your daughter-in-law. You become someone she called for advice, for a sounding board and for just love and support.

I have to think that our biggest accomplishment and the best gift we gave you was Charlotte. You loved her so much. You became known as "Grammy" and you loved every moment of it. You used to be the only one who could rock her to calm her down (like when Monica had to rock Rachel's baby in Friends). From apple picking to pumpkin picking, from the aquarium to the beach, from running around in the backyard to reading to playing blocks, Charlotte and

Grammy time was special.

Going backwards again, I'll revisit the 2001 weekend when I was home from college and you told me about the breast cancer diagnosis. I remember you saying, "they caught it early, I'm going to be ok." I was a 19 year old kid that knew nothing about breast cancer. Today I'm a 39 year old man who still doesn't understand how this illness can keep coming back. You beat it into remission while continuing to work full time, only taking the necessary time needed for treatments to be out of work. That's when I knew you were a warrior. Fast forward 10 years later, I never thought it would be another fight but here it came back and you faced it again with the same tenacity and courage that made you a survivor. You waged the battle of your life against the ruthless illness, never giving up. You were a beacon of hope, strength, courage and life.

From the Tinton Pines Olympics, to the Meridian cruise where our cabin was literally below crew quarters, to Kingsmill trips and the A-Dult dinner parties when us B-dults always cooked up a sleepover, you were always there making memories. I remember how you and Mrs. Hickey used to bowl in a league at Shore Lanes. You had such a unique and graceful approach on the lanes, I always tried to emulate but always failed. You did have that front foot slide that I sort of made work for a little bit. You loved cooking and became our very own grill master. I was always calling you to get advice on grilling and cooking and you were always there to answer my question, even tho your answers were sometimes "a little of this, a little of that." I loved when you used to call me on your way home from work just to tell me your dislike for bad drivers. You taught me how to iron my clothes, do my laundry (because you were tired of me stockpiling my dirty laundry in my room) and even how to sew, a skill that still impresses people to when I let it be known that I can sew because my mom taught me at a young age. You showed me how to wrap presents, decorate a Christmas tree and set up your famous Santa and Mrs. Claus Santa's workshop window scene in the front window.

Your parties were on another level. You loved hosting and was always willing to pitch in even at someone else's house. From the Clambakes to the making strides walks, pajama parties (even in July) to Christmas Eve dinner. From cousins reunions and random summer bbqs, from my birthday party carnivals in the backyard to graduation pool parties, from showers to weddings to christenings, you were always willing to host a party or help with one and loved doing it.

I guess you got over me going away to college pretty quickly bc all of a sudden, you and dad started to go cruising a lot. At last count, I thought the number was into the 50s but I know I used to exaggerate that. And when you weren't cruising, you and dad found weekend getaways at Paradise Stream in the Poconos. Superbowl parties, activity nights, couples parties, snowmobiling and even shooting guns were all part of the fun you and dad had as empty nesters (even though I returned from college every weekend and for stayed 5 more years after graduating). I remember you always asking me, when are you moving out?". I said I wanted to be out when I was 25 but I said you could kick me out when I was 27. I never said at which point during my 27th year that could happen. Well, we bought our house two months before I turned 28 so you never had to kick me out. But I know you never would have made me leave...it was your way of making me realize that I was ready to be on my own. And I was ready because of the way you and dad raised me. You were always there to help answer questions about owning a house, keeping that house standing and maintaining my pool.

You and Dad became our go-to dog sitters when we got Bella and you took such great care of her. From coming over to let her out when I was working, to taking her for walks when you watched her, to sharing your spot on the couch, you treated her like the dog you never got me. She was part of our family and you loved her.

When it came time to plan a wedding in 8 months, you jumped right in to help in any way you could. When we needed to throw an

engagement party in 4 weeks, you were there to help. You were there with bells on going to countless venues with us to find the perfect wedding place. When we said we didn't want to get be married in a church, you supported us and said whatever we wanted. When the party bus cancelled the morning of, I came to get you and you calmed me down and put Dad on the case. Needless to say, it worked out the way it needed to. You again shined when it was time to throw Charlotte's christening, making party favors, decorations and setting up the venue. You were a rock star so many times and continued to impress me.

I know the last few years weren't the easiest with the eye surgeries but you never complained. And I know the last few months were the hardest and I could tell that your spirit was wavering ever so slightly but again, you never gave up. You fought to the bitter end and if you could, you would have kept going for all of us.

You're in a better place now where the cancer can't get you, can't hurt you and can't define you. You defined you Mom. You left a footprint that no one can replace and no one will ever want to. I want to live my life with the dignity, perseverance and grace that you did, not sweating the small stuff, not worrying about things that you can't change, not letting things "fester" and just being happy in the moment. I will honor your legacy by living for you and living the way you did. And I will pass on everything that you were and embodied to Charlotte. I love you mom.

Sean - December 27, 2021 at 12:02 AM

JC

“ Dear Aunt Margret ,

I will always remember the good times, and there was plenty of them. Every holiday , party, bbq, birthday, and family gathering were all special times where we could talk, laugh and make memories. I will miss the texts to say hi and check in or to sing me happy birthday . They all ended with I love you and will see you soo . I am lucky to have met peg and marry into such a great family and gain another aunt. I will always cherish the past 13 years we were able to spend together and I will never forget you. I LOVE YOU 🥰

Love, Jerry

Jerry Capozzi - December 23, 2021 at 08:52 PM



AG

“ Heartfelt thoughts go out to your family in this time of sorrow. Sending love and prayers to you all.

Arlene Gibel - December 23, 2021 at 08:27 AM



SE

“ I love you mommy

Sean - December 22, 2021 at 01:25 PM



BH

“ *Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Margaret McKnight Murphy*



Bongarzone Funeral Home - December 20, 2021 at 10:37 PM

EI

“ *We met as H.S. freshmen at Stella Maris. What a wonderful 4 years; from the sophomore ‘morp’ to our McDonald’s skit in the Senior Class Christmas play. Neither of us could have imagined all those years ago the impact our friendship would have on our lives going forward. We met our future husbands, had our amazing children, and the ultimate experience... becoming grammies. You and I have shared so many crazy adventures - from being part of Tony Orlando & Dawn at the Tinton Pines Olympics of ‘96, searching for Mr. & Mrs. Meridian on a cruise to Bermuda, and encountering the ‘The Three Stooges’ in the Poconos. What an incredible ride it has been! You have fought long & hard. You have been an inspiration to so many. Now it is time for you to have the rest you so richly deserve. I will miss you dearly.*

Love you, Always -

Eileen - December 20, 2021 at 08:23 PM

JA

“ *Oh sister Mary Margaret ,lol, that is what I called you, always so tough but compassionate. You fought a long and hard battle, may you Rest In Peace.*

Jackie - December 20, 2021 at 03:03 PM

PC

“ Dear Aunt Margaret,

Loving aunt, godmother and friend. I will always cherish our birthday shopping trips, a special day for you and I to spend together each year as I was growing up. You have always been the life of the party and never thought twice about coming up with a reason to have one. Whether it was Christmas in July or a holiday Pajama party, you went all out for a theme. I will miss your infectious laugh and your random texts beginning with “hi there” and ending with “love you” You loved hard, you fought even harder and you never gave up. I will always admire your courage and strength over these past 20+ years.

Rest In Peace

Peggy

Peggy Capozzi - December 20, 2021 at 09:56 AM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Margaret McKnight Murphy



Bongarzone Funeral Home - December 19, 2021 at 09:01 PM

CC

I'm so sorry for your loss. R.i.P.Margaret

Carolyn Capozzi - December 20, 2021 at 03:18 PM

MM

Margaret

*We first met in Stella Maris HS when you became friends with my sister, Eileen. Who would have known this would not only be a lifelong, friendship but that we would become family? We worked alongside each other in McDonalds, had many adventures together (who could forget that memorable trip to the Haunted Mansion?), cruised together and ended up living within walking distance from each other in NJ. You met my brother, Eugene, fell in love, and became part of our family---another sister. You always threw great parties---Clam bakes (which you started all those years ago), Making Strides party after the walk, Christmas Pajama party (another party started by you), BBQ's, I could go on and on. We had many lunches sitting on your deck and even though I brought lunch to you from your new favorite, Anna's restaurant, you acted like the host, always serving others. It has been an amazing time. Rest now and fly with the angels. You are free from pain. Stella Maris girls (and family) we'll always be till we meet again!!!
Luv you*

Mary

Mary Murphy - December 29, 2021 at 12:40 PM