



Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio

September 7, 1964 - August 12, 2021

PEPPERELL: Lilla Elizabeth-Ann DiTullio (née Lewis), 56, born September 7, 1964 on a US military base in Kenitra, Morocco, died in Pepperell, Massachusetts surrounded by her loving family on August 12, 2021.

The daughter of Robert and Doris Lewis, Lilla was brought up in a loving home by parents who taught her the value of community and family. She excelled in school, earning a nursing degree from the University of Lowell (MA), where she met her husband, David DiTullio. Lilla joined the Air Force upon her college graduation, and eventually was stationed at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, TX with her husband. Lilla separated from the Air Force as a First Lieutenant, and she and David returned to Massachusetts to raise their growing family.

A lover of reading and learning about history, Lilla took her children on numerous trips to historical places such as Boston, Gettysburg, Williamsburg, and Washington, D.C. When her children had children of their own, Lilla discovered one of her new favorite roles: that of being “Noni” to her three young grandchildren. She treasured the days when she watched them as well as other times when they visited.

As a nurse, Lilla had a special place in her heart for the elderly. She worked at a nursing home in college, and after leaving the Air Force worked at

Leominster Hospital, then the VNA of Leominster. She later settled into roles where she could spend her days working with the elderly--"my friends", as she liked to call them--in adult day health settings. She had a unique ability to be present with them and to help them feel connected to other people. At her last two workplaces (CESI of Groton, MA and D'Youville of Lowell, MA), she listened to her friends' stories, laughed with them, and cared for them in mind, body, and soul.

Kind, welcoming, and gracious, Lilla found friends wherever she lived and worked. These friends remember her as being remarkable in her warmth for other people, as well as her ability to remember all her families', friends', and even acquaintances' birthdays and anniversaries. She was witty and wise, funny and fierce in her love for her family and friends.

Lilla was predeceased by her father, Robert Lewis. She is survived by her mother, Doris Lewis; her husband of thirty-four years, David DiTullio; her children: Kate DiTullio, Matthew DiTullio and his wife Felicia DiTullio of Milford, NH, and Rachel DiTullio Laird and her husband Stephen Laird of Nashua, NH; and her three grandchildren: Henry, Charles, and Isabella.

Calling hours will be held from 4-7 p.m. on Thursday, August 19 at Anderson Funeral Home, 25 Fitchburg Road, (Rte 2A) Ayer. For additional information or to leave an online condolence please visit their website at www.andersonfuneral.com.

Lilla's Celebration of Life will take place the following day, August 20, from 11:00-12:00 at the Groton Country Club, 94 Lovers Lane in Groton, MA, with a luncheon to follow immediately afterwards. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Tucker Gosnell Gastrointestinal Cancer Fund at Massachusetts General Hospital in Lilla's name.

Previous Events

Calling Hours

AUG **19**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Anderson Funeral Home - Ayer
25 Fitchburg Road ~ Route 2A
Ayer, MA 01432
(978) 772-2355

Celebration of Life

AUG **20**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Groton Country Club
94 Lovers Lane
Groton, MA

Tribute Wall

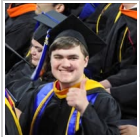
RZ

“ *To David and your family,
I feel sorrowful for your loss.*

She was a special person who made a lasting impression with her genuine kindness and joyful smile.

We were high school classmates, and in college we'd occasionally chat while passing on campus. Although too brief, I feel blessed to have known such a sweet person.

Robert Zarrella - January 29, 2022 at 11:52 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Dan Stanley - August 24, 2021 at 09:14 AM

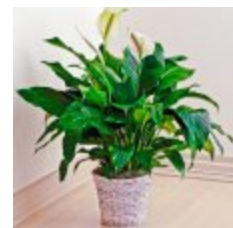
RZ

Wow, Dan! That is a beautiful tribute!

Robert Zarrella - January 29, 2022 at 11:53 PM



“ *Floor Plant for Sympathy was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.*



August 22, 2021 at 09:13 PM



“ *Lilla broke my heart twice.*

Lilla had been one of my best friend in high school. By my senior year we were dating, but I graduated in December of '82 and started college in January way off in Missouri. Lilla sent me 16 letters that first semester of college. I will always recognize her handwriting. At about the halfway point of the semester, one of those letters told me she had started dating Michael Pellechia. That was heartbreak number 1. But she kept writing. She was first and foremost my friend and she didn't abandon friendships just because the situation had changed. I could always depend on her friendship.

We dated on and off during summers mostly until my senior year at college, when I got yet another letter. It seems she had met a young man named David at UMass Lowell. This was heartbreak number 2. I had taken it for granted that Lilla would always be there for me. But of course she still was. After some time our friendship resumed. Over the next 30 some odd years letters and phone calls became emails and Facebook. Through some of my toughest times in life, Lilla was a friend and an encourager to me.

So I'm thankful that Lilla broke my heart. The second time I mean, not the first time with Michael Pellechia. Both of us found our forever loves, and I maintained my forever friend. I know I will see her again. I do not grieve as one without hope.

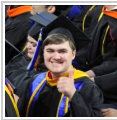
Dan Stanley - August 20, 2021 at 10:44 PM

TF

“ I am so sadden to learn of my elementary and high school (Leominster High) best friend's passing. Lilla and I grew up together and lived a few houses away from each other. There are so many memories... But most fondly was being part of her beautiful wedding to David. My prayers go out to her family and friends. She was an earth "angel" with a heart of acceptance and kindness for all. God has called you home so soon. Rest in peace and know you will always hold a place in my heart.

Toni Davis (Freeman)

Toni Freeman - August 20, 2021 at 09:34 PM



Hey Toni. My heart is broken, as you probably can guess. Hope you're doing well.

Dan Stanley (dan.stanley@comcast.net)

Dan Stanley - August 20, 2021 at 10:42 PM

RZ

Hi Toni,
I'm sorrowed for the loss of your best friend. I'm sure she greatly cherished your friendship as well.
Rob Zarrella

Robert Zarrella - January 29, 2022 at 11:54 PM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



August 18, 2021 at 06:35 PM

FB

“ From the Northshore Brickleys purchased the Healing Tears - Blue and White for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



From the Northshore Brickleys - August 18, 2021 at 02:42 PM

EM

“ Hi! Doris Sorry to hear about the loss of your daughter I am unable to attend because I have an appointment at the Cancer Center Our sympathy goes out to you Tony, Ellen & Stephen.

Ellen Migneault - August 18, 2021 at 02:39 PM



“ Peace, Prayers, & Blessings- Lavender and White was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



August 18, 2021 at 01:20 PM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



August 18, 2021 at 01:14 PM

WZ

“ Wink, Teresa, Jackson, Shidela & Zoey purchased the Lavender & White Sympathy Basket for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



Wink, Teresa, Jackson, Shidela & Zoey - August 18, 2021 at 12:12 PM



“ Healing Tears - All White was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



August 18, 2021 at 09:25 AM

BA

“ David and all of the extended family within the DiTullio clan my condolences in the loss of a wife, mother, grandmother, and just a wonderful person. Take solace she is at peace with her savior and on her way to her rightful place in heaven. God bless.

Bill Albrecht - August 18, 2021 at 07:55 AM



“ Multicolor Bright Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



August 18, 2021 at 04:04 AM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.*



August 17, 2021 at 11:28 AM



“ *Donna DiStefano lit a candle in memory of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio*



Donna DiStefano - August 17, 2021 at 10:24 AM



“ *I will always remember my cousin and our times camping at the southern Maine beaches. We belted out Journey songs in the back of the camper. She was so fun and kind to me!*



Jennifer Sindelir - August 17, 2021 at 06:12 AM



“ *Classic Sympathy Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.*



August 16, 2021 at 11:59 PM

SK

“ Sue Keough purchased the Blue & White Sympathy Floor Basket for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



Sue Keough - August 16, 2021 at 04:15 PM



“ Blue & White Sympathy Standing Spray was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



August 16, 2021 at 03:25 PM

TC

“ The Hollis Nor'Easters Snowmobile Club purchased the Garden Accent Stone - "Wherever a Beautiful Soul..." for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



The Hollis Nor'Easters Snowmobile Club - August 16, 2021 at 02:29 PM

KL

“ Kathy, Steve, Greg, Christa, and Laura purchased the Cherished Memories - Multicolor Pastel for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.



Kathy, Steve, Greg, Christa, and Laura - August 16, 2021 at 12:27 PM

YA

“ *Your sister friend, Ronnie and Angela purchased the Floor Plant for Sympathy for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.*



Your sister friend, Ronnie and Angela - August 16, 2021 at 08:10 AM

LB

“ *Lisa Belanger lit a candle in memory of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio*



Lisa Belanger - August 15, 2021 at 07:17 PM

FC

“ *From Art, Lisa, Karl and Candy purchased the White Standing Spray for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.*



From Art, Lisa, Karl and Candy - August 15, 2021 at 07:09 PM



“ *Healing Tears - Yellow and White was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.*



August 14, 2021 at 01:05 PM

DD

“ 20 files added to the tribute wall



David DiTullio - August 14, 2021 at 08:43 AM

JA

“ We know Lilla thru her parents Bob & Doris our camping friends. GOD got a beautiful Angel to be with Bob & to watch over Doris & her family. Our thoughts & prayers are with you all in this tragic time.
Jack & Donna Adams

Jack N Adams - August 14, 2021 at 08:36 AM



“ I met Lilla in late 2011 after my mom passed and we became caregivers to my sister, 17 years my senior with CP. Lilla was not only a huge part of the transition for my sister, but for all of us. She was patient, understanding and loving. She was there for my sister through many firsts. I remember how excited she was when Mary Ann had her first boyfriend. Words cannot express how sad we are to hear of her passing. Our deepest sympathies to her entire family and to all that knew and loved her, which I am sure there are many. The world does not have enough Lilla's. With love and sympathy,
Jamie Choate and Mary Ann Walker

Jamie Choate - August 14, 2021 at 08:12 AM

JM

“ Lilla and I were in a Ladies Bible Study together for several years . . . a lady providing a dessert each week. Lilla chose my birthday week as her turn . . . providing my "very" favorite apple crisp. Truly, a labor of love!!! Also, she was involved as a leader in my son's youth group. When he left for college, I can still "see" the endearing hug he gave her . . . Lilla having touched his life for "good"!!! Rest in peace, my dear Lilla, now in the presence of the Arms of Jesus . . . your work on earth done.

June Mullen - August 13, 2021 at 09:12 PM

DW

“ I first met Lilla when we were high school students at Leominster High. She and I were co-workers at the old Sack Theaters, and she fast became a trusted friend and confidant. She was also an evangelist, quietly sharing her faith with me, and helping to get me on the path of faith I continue on today. Our friendship continued through college, and as we both met the loves of our lives, we attended each other's weddings. Fast forward a couple of years, and baby play dates became the norm. Lilla also was an angel of mercy to my family, supporting my mother and father as my mother's health declined. We'll be praying for Dave during this sad time, and for Katie, Matt and Rachel, that with time the sadness will be replaced by happy memories. For me, I know that Lilla is now safe, healthy and joyful, and I know that this is not a goodbye, but more of a "see you soon".

Dale Wheeler - August 13, 2021 at 06:55 PM

CS

“ I had the the good fortune of being Lilla's supervisor when she worked for Cooperative Elder Services in Groton! She was an exceptional nurse. When I think of her I think of her beautiful smile! Gone to soon! Carol Symonds

Carol Symonds - August 13, 2021 at 05:06 PM



“ *Peace, Prayers & Blessings - Blue and White was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.*



August 13, 2021 at 04:51 PM



“ *Healing Tears - All Pink was purchased for the family of Lilla Elizabeth - Ann (Lewis) DiTullio.*



August 13, 2021 at 02:35 PM