



C. Elizabeth O'Keeffe

May 28, 1962 - August 10, 2020

Celeste “Elizabeth” O’Keeffe lived a full and too short life. The most important things to her were family, hard work, and education. She was a dedicated mother and attorney and a loyal friend; we could always depend on her to advocate for our family and defend the little guy. She loved dogs, and we could also always depend on her to want to adopt any stray dog that she saw.

Born at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Brighton, MA, where her father and grandfather both had been surgeons, she grew up in Weston, Massachusetts. She was the grandniece of Francis Cardinal Spellman, the Archbishop of New York, who is buried in St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Manhattan. After earning a Bachelor of Arts at George Washington University, she obtained a Juris Doctor degree at Case Western University School of Law (Magna Cum Laude, Order of the Coif, Articles Editor for Law Review). Subsequently, she served a clerkship with the Chief Judge of the Connecticut Court of Appeals. She completed a Masters in Public Health with Health Policy concentration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a Masters in Health Law (LL. M.) from Concord University. In addition, she was certified in Health Care Compliance as well as in Privacy and served on multiple committees in many professional organizations.

Elizabeth worked for a number of organizations (both not-for-profit and for profit) in a variety of roles, including General Counsel and Vice President for

Legal Affairs for Wake Forest University Baptist Medical Center, General Counsel and Vice President for Legal Affairs for Carolinas Medical Center Northeast (Atrium Health), and General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer for Advanced Infusions Solutions. She served as either Associate or Assistant General Counsel at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Fresenius Medical Care, and The Medical College of Wisconsin. She was admitted to the Federal Bar, as well as to the bars of Massachusetts, Connecticut, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Mississippi, Tennessee, Wisconsin, and Texas and was most recently working for Tenet Health.

She was very proud of her children and husband, and through her example, taught all three children the importance of and reward associated with, hard work and dedication. In her work life, she was always dedicated to doing the right thing for her organization and never sought personal gain. She was a life-long learner, a voracious reader, and a wonderful mother and wife.

We will always remember her quirky sense of humor (particularly the self-deprecating kind), and her love of yoga and exercise; especially walking the dog(s). We will think of her whenever we see a flamingo, her all-time favorite, and will never forget her fierce loyalty to her family. She played lacrosse in high school and college, described her main skill as aggression on the field, and she brought this same passion to everything that she did. We will miss her forever.

Elizabeth was pre-deceased by her parents, Dr. Philip and Marie Spellman Gallagher, as well as her brother in law Dave Doss. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Richard O'Keeffe of Laurel MS, daughter Katie O'Keeffe (fiancé Mike Fallon) of Boston, MA, daughter Alison Zebrowski of Bronxville, NY (husband Michael) and son R. Michael O'Keeffe of Boston, MA. She is also survived by her siblings: Ellen Gallagher Parsons, Karen Grant and husband

Rob, Phil Gallagher and fiancé June Lohmer, Mark Gallagher and wife Patty Mayfield, and sister Diane. She leaves behind one granddaughter, Isabelle Kate Zebrowski, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Because of the public health crisis, there will be no memorial services in the near future, but we will plan a celebration of life at a time in the future when gatherings are once again safe. If you wish to remember her, in lieu of flowers, please send a donation to the Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History, 241 Wellesley St, Weston, MA 02493.

To sign the online guest book, visit www.memorychapellaurel.com.

Tribute Wall

RP

“ I learned the shocking news of Elizabeth's passing recently, and wanted to make sure that I wrote a tribute to her here. Elizabeth was a client of mine, always a pleasure to work for and with, bright, courageous, and determined. I considered her not only a colleague but a friend. I was very sorry to hear this, and wanted to send condolences to her children she spoke so highly of, her grandchild, and her husband. Elizabeth was well respected in the legal community and she will be sorely missed.

*Best,
Rachael Pontikes*

Rachael Pontikes - September 30, 2020 at 04:19 PM

JS

“ Dear Dick,

I was shocked and saddened to learn the news about my cousin Celeste. A friend on Cape Cod recently sent the notice from the Cape Cod Times to me.

May I offer profound condolences and prayers from my father, Celeste's uncle, John W. Spellman, Jr. and from all of his family, including my siblings Thomas, Richard, Edward, James and Marybeth, their wives, children and grandchildren.

*John T. Spellman and Cynthia McCollum
New York, NY*

John T Spellman - August 24, 2020 at 06:31 PM

MI

“ Dear Ali and O’Keeffe family,

I have been pondering Matthew 7:16 ever since I heard about Mrs. O’Keeffe’s unexpected passing: By their fruits you shall know them. I only had the privilege of meeting Mrs. O’Keeffe once, at her daughter Ali’s wedding. She was warm and went out of her way to say hello, because she knew I and my group were important to her daughter, and thus we were important to Elizabeth. She loved Ali so much and was so proud of her. Ali is one of Mrs. O’Keeffe’s fruit, her legacy, and she is a remarkable one. Iron-strong, stubborn, whip-smart, adaptable, with deep-spring love for her people, Ali is a remarkable person, community-member, worker, friend, and family-member. I know that Ali is such a product of Mrs. O’Keeffe, and that Mrs. O’Keeffe left such long-lasting legacies in her other children, and throughout her community. Mrs. O’Keeffe is, and will be, missed. I am grateful for having a part of her touch my life and send all of my love to her family and dear ones during this time.

*My sincerest condolences,
Michele*

Michele - August 23, 2020 at 10:28 PM

MD

“ Dearest Dr. O’Keeffe, Ali, Katie, and Michael,

I am so incredibly sorry for the loss of your beloved mother. The O’Keeffe family is truly an extension of my own family. From the moment I met Katie, Ali, and Madeline Bacon in sailing class, I knew we would be lifelong friends. Mrs. O’Keeffe brought so much warmth, love, and humor to our summer days in Hyannis Port. Whether it was driving us girls to Four Seas for an Ice Cream or spending time chatting with us about the recent happenings in our lives, Mrs. O’Keeffe treated me like another daughter. I remember one windy day when we were all racing our Optis at a Commodore’s Cup and Mrs. O’Keeffe was on the Arbiter for Race Committee. I was on the starting line, when another sailor tacked across and his boom hit me right on the forehead. I was so upset and nervous and in no shape to continue racing. Mrs. O’Keeffe brought me onto the Committee Boat, made me laugh, and told me I was going to be just fine. It was always a comfort to see her. I am so grateful to have known Mrs. O’Keeffe for almost all of my life.

She was an incredible woman who loved her family tremendously. She was a role model to her children and was admired by all those around her.

We will miss her immensely, but her legacy will live on through her beautiful children and wonderful husband.

We love all of you so much!

XOXO

Madeline Demoulas

Madeline D. - August 23, 2020 at 02:00 PM

CC

“ Dear Ali and O’Keeffe family,

We are so sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you during this very difficult time. Your mom’s impressive legacy will carry on through her wonderful children and grandchild. We have such great memories of meeting Mrs.

O’Keeffe at Ali’s wedding. We hope these memories will be some comfort in this time. Love, Caroline and Lucas

Caroline Colton - August 16, 2020 at 03:27 PM

KG

“ From Karen Gallagher Grant many sibling/family memories and love a laughter . I can hear Celeste saying the following: God Bless!

Be Waiting for You
By Kelly Roper

*Although your heart may be broken,
There's no need to weep for me.
I'm in a wonderful place now,
Where I'm happy and so carefree.*

*I had to go, but I've left behind
Good memories to comfort you.
Concentrate on the best times we had,
And try not to feel so blue.*

*For one day we'll be together again,
To laugh and sing and play.
You'll be so glad to see me again,
It will seem I was gone just one day.*

*So try to lift up your heads now,
And dare to set grief aside,
Because I'll be waiting here for you,
To welcome you to the other side.
Lots of love!*

Karen Gallagher Grant - August 15, 2020 at 06:01 PM

AR

“ Ali,

Please accept my condolences for the loss of your mother. You and your family are in my thoughts.

Alex Rosenberg

Alex Rosenberg - August 14, 2020 at 11:51 PM

CL

“ *Dear O’Keefe Family, It is with great sorrow that we learned of Elizabeth’s passing. As our across the street neighbors, Elizabeth and Dick both were friends. Elizabeth gave us boxes of Girl Scout cookies, sent us flowers when babies were born, and hosted showers and parties for the block. We saw you at church, at school, on bikes, and at the grocery, always doing for each other and the family. One beautiful Easter Sunday you took a family picture for us! You invited us to see your Christmas lights and your Halloween decorations. We missed you when you moved and heard of good family news through your Christmas letters. We share your sorrow and pray for peace and comfort in the coming days and years. Elizabeth touched more people than we know, and it is our hope that she rests with God and those she has loved. We are praying for you all. Love, the Lassiter Family*

catherine lassiter - August 14, 2020 at 09:01 PM

MF

“ Dear Dick, Ali, Katie and Michael,

I am so sorry for your loss of your wonderful Mother and Wife. Elizabeth was so generous and kind and always reached out to get together when in Hyannis Port. Your family is so well loved in Hyport and Katie, Ali and Michael, you are all a testament of your wonderful parents. Sending love and hugs to you all at this hard time. Elizabeth will be missed.

XOXO - Marcia Floyd

Marcia Floyd - August 14, 2020 at 11:24 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of C. Elizabeth O'Keeffe.



August 14, 2020 at 09:10 AM

TU

“ Mrs. O'Keeffe was a brilliant woman who managed to balance so much so admirably. I remember numerous conversations with Ali in law school about her superstar mom, and was really happy to have met her at Ali's wedding/stayed in touch with her. She was always one of the first people to send me positive encouragement (even from afar) and I'll always be grateful for that. I am so sorry for your loss. -Tuba

Tuba - August 14, 2020 at 03:08 AM

TF

“ *The Gallagher Family purchased the Summer's Light Bouquet for the family of C. Elizabeth O'Keeffe.*



The Gallagher Family - August 13, 2020 at 03:37 PM

EP

“ *On behalf of the Gallagher Family, we send our sincere condolences to Dick, Allie, Katie and Michael. We are so saddened by the sudden loss. We will all remember our intelligent, accomplished, beautiful sister Celeste in so very many ways. She will be remembered for her "Spellman wit", her adorable posts and her love of animals. Most importantly she will be remembered for all that she accomplished during her life. We will miss her everyday, and will remember all of the memories.... Weston, Scituate, Hyannisport.*

We will love you forever and always. Love you to the moon and back. We know you will always be with us in our hearts, and providing instructions from above! There will not be a day that goes by, where we do not think of you, which will put a smile on our faces!

Rest in peace Celeste

*All our love,
Ellen, Karen, Philip, Mark and Diane and your nieces and nephews:
John, Caroline, Rob, Marie, Michael, Tim and Zach.*

ellen Gallagher Parsons - August 13, 2020 at 03:24 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of C. Elizabeth O’Keeffe.*



August 13, 2020 at 02:24 PM



“ *Dr. O’Keeffe and family, We are so sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of the family*

Bobby and Linda Boyles - August 13, 2020 at 12:47 PM



“ *O’Keeffe family - We’re thinking of you all during this hard time. We had the opportunity to meet Elizabeth during Ali & Mike’s wedding weekend. She was smart and inviting - and helped raise three incredible kids. You’ll be missed. Sending our love - Conor and Lindsay*

Conor Flanagan - August 13, 2020 at 09:47 AM

GF

“ Elizabeth, Dick, Michael, Katie, and Ali brought me in to their summer home In Hyannisport to live with them and have some of the best memories of my life. Elizabeth showed true compassion and sympathy for me when my family sold our house on the cape and opened her loving home. She set me up with my first job driving the launch at the yacht club, included me in all family activities, and made it possible for me to still hangout with her son Michael and the “crew”. Most importantly treated me like a son. She has helped me out of countless situations where many of people would have given up on someone. She always had my back and I will miss her greatly. I love the O’Keeffe family and thank you for all the opportunities and memories we’ve shared.

George Frick - August 13, 2020 at 08:31 AM

PG

“ We never would have felt ready to say good-bye to someone as special as Celeste, but this timing feels especially tough. Wishing your family comfort and strength for the days ahead. Such an amazing sister and wonderful person
Phil and June

Philip S Gallagher - August 12, 2020 at 10:49 PM



“ I was completely stunned to hear the news about Mrs. O’Keeffe. I will never forget her sharing her beloved Hyannisport with all of us for her daughter Ali’s wedding, touring us around the place of which she was so fond. I know her wit, warmth, and grace will endure through her wonderful family. Rest In Peace.

Brad Mattison - August 12, 2020 at 09:52 PM

LC

“ I will never forget how thoughtful, welcoming, kind, funny, and kind you were, Mrs. O’Keeffe. Meeting Ali our freshman year at Richmond was one of the best things to ever happen to me, partially because it brought you, Dr. O’Keeffe, Katie, and Michael, into my life. This is a somewhat random memory, but a few years back you reached out to invite me to lunch when you were in town for one of Michael’s lacrosse games and I was so touched that you thought of me. You made me feel so welcome that day (and many others) and I always appreciated how genuinely interested you were in what was going on in my life. I know you extended the same generosity, interest, and care, to all who were lucky enough to know you. You have a special place in my heart, Mrs. O’Keeffe, and I am so saddened by your loss. I know you will continue to protect your family from above, and I can only hope I am included in that bundle. To the rest of the O’Keeffe and Zebrowski family, I am thinking of you and sending all of my love.

Lauren Camuso - August 12, 2020 at 03:26 PM

DZ

“ Although we weren’t in touch daily or weekly, the phone could ring anytime day or night and there would always be that happy voice on the other end, so happy to hear from you and update each other on our crazy lives. I am so grateful that was not the case as of late. Covid brought us together more frequently these last few months and I couldn’t be happier that we could talk a lot more. Such a brilliant, loving and generous soul, Elizabeth would light up a room and make you feel like family. The consummate host, her Super Bowl parties were epic, as was simply sitting in the yard with a cool drink. She was fiercely loyal and protective of her family and I know she would never allow anyone else to be guardian angel of her family now. Rest well, Liz! You will be forever missed and always loved! Thank you for your friendship!



Donna Zollo - August 12, 2020 at 11:59 AM

ND

“ I worked with Elizabeth briefly and was impressed by her wit, warmth and intelligence. In her short time at Tenet, she was well respected and well liked. She will be missed. My condolences to the family.

Nancy Davis - August 12, 2020 at 11:28 AM

CT

“ Oh, Dick and kids, I am so sorry to hear this news. As your next-door neighbors in HP for many years I remember so many things. She loved her family fiercely. My heart goes out to you all. You are in my prayers. With deepest sympathy, Christine

Christine G Tuttle - August 12, 2020 at 09:56 AM

RC

“ So sorry for your loss, prayers of comfort for you and your family.

Rhonda Cheramie - August 11, 2020 at 10:42 PM

MO

“ We already miss you so much mom. Your memory will live on in our hearts, our actions, and our work ethic. I know you would want us to celebrate, rather than grieve, and I look forward to a chance to do that with your friends and family. I love you-Mooie

Michael O'Keeffe - August 11, 2020 at 10:13 PM

KS

“ We will all miss Celeste's keen intellect, witty sense of humor, compassion for others, and generosity of spirit. Her wonderful legacy will live on with her family. Dick, Ali and Mike, Katie and Mike, and Michael, we send you our thoughts and prayers.
Love: Sean, Kristen, Meaghan, Erin

Kristen Sheehan - August 11, 2020 at 09:06 PM

AZ

“ Dear Dick, Ali, Katie and Michael
She was a remarkable woman with a rich and beautiful legacy that we know will continue to make her proud. Heaven will know her name! Sending our love, hugs and prayers to the entire family and holding our memories close to our heart. Love you all.
Ava and Michael

Ava Zebrowski - August 11, 2020 at 07:40 PM

BG

“ This is such unbelievable and tragic news. Our family has so many great memories of our times with Elizabeth and her family, and I smile when I think of how, serious though she could be, Elizabeth could always make me laugh. She even figured out that we were distantly related through some generations-ago cousins and I was proud that we were "family".

The neighborhood, Christmas Eve, Super Bowl, school events, the wives' "birthday club", and St. Leo's fundraisers were never the same after the O'Keeffes moved away, but we always knew we still had great friends in the wilds of Mississippi. So it's just so strange to realize she is gone.

Dick, Michael, Kate and Ali, we love you guys and send every positive bit of karma your way. And Elizabeth, we love you so much and will miss you so.

*Bill Green (and the Green family)
Winston-Salem, NC*

Bill Green - August 11, 2020 at 06:42 PM

NG

“ After hearing the news that we all had lost Elizabeth, a wise friend suggested that I just walk around the block. I walked toward the O’Keeffe’s home on Springdale Ave. and thought of how many times I had walked that sidewalk to be in my happy place. To join in a party with Elizabeth and Dick; to hang out with my friend while she arranged her china cabinet with treasures from her Mother; rushing over to see her Cape Cod light fixture at night and then again on a snowy night.

I loved my friend from Boston, she was such fun, such a good listener, generous beyond words and when she moved I never doubted that she would always be there if I needed her. Now she can see all, and I know she will still be with me when I need her - she was just that amazing!!

Dick, Katie, Ali and Michael, Christmas Eve I will think of you all and please know that my balloon will go directly to heaven, to Elizabeth (who will be finishing up a Banana Split).

Love you all, Nancy Green (Winston-Salem, NC)



Nancy Green - August 11, 2020 at 06:14 PM

MB

“ O’Keeffe Family,

I am so incredibly sorry for your loss. You have been a second family to me since I was 8 years old and I will cherish all of the times spent with your mom And all of the times she caught us kids getting into mischief :) Mrs. OK was truly one of a kind and I will miss her humor, hilarious anecdotes, intellect, and warmth.

Mrs. O’Keeffe,

Thank you (and Dr. O’Keeffe!) for allowing me to constantly barge into your home unannounced, sleep over 6 nights a week for about 15 years, eat all of your poptarts, and for not scolding me when I taught your daughters how to swear. Lastly, thank you for constantly welcoming me into your home and giving Madeline Demoulas and I our two best friends. Our lives would not be the same without you. I will miss you, I love you, and I will never, ever forget you❤️❤️

*Love always,
Madeline Bacon*

Madeline Bacon - August 11, 2020 at 05:12 PM

EH

“ So sorry for your loss Dr. O’Keeffe. Will be remembering you and your family in this time of sorrow. Elaine Hill

Elaine Hill - August 11, 2020 at 03:48 PM

CB

“ Celeste’s devotion to Dick and her kids was enduringly evident. I’m sure she will be watching over her family always. Peace to Celeste, Dick, Ali, Katie, and Michael.

Cathy Buckley - August 11, 2020 at 03:29 PM

AL

“ We love you so much mom. We think of you when we are reading to Isabelle and whenever we see a flamingo or walk by a pet adoption event. We miss you. Ali and Mike.

Ali - August 11, 2020 at 02:29 PM

IZ

Dear O'Keeffe family, I am so sorry for the loss of your Mom, wife and grandmother. I know All of you meant the world to her. May she Rest In Peace and may you all find peace. Blessings

izzy - August 11, 2020 at 10:10 PM

DS

Dr. O'Keeffe and family: Sorry for your loss. Blessing from a patient and her family. Dot Smith & family

DOT SMITH - August 12, 2020 at 02:39 PM

SY

O'Keeffe Family,

I just heard of your loss and I am praying for comfort and peace for your family as you navigate this difficult time.

Sue Martinez Yarbrough

Sue Martinez Yarbrough - January 05, 2021 at 12:20 PM