



Mary Elizabeth Connor

September 8, 1942 - May 13, 2024

Mary Elizabeth (Handley) Connor died on May 13, 2024 surrounded by loved ones. She lived a full life that was always focused on others, in both her work and personal life. Her greatest joy was helping others, travel (especially Disney), and seeing family.

Born September 8, 1942, in Evanston, Illinois to James L. and Margaret L (Kirwin) Handley, both natives of Lowell, Massachusetts. She lived in many states during her early years due to father's career. She graduated from Saint Joseph Hospital School of Nursing in 1963.

Over the years, she received a BS in Psychology, Masters in Education, and a Masters in Human Services from New England College, and a Masters in Nursing from Rivier College.

She was employed at Saint Joseph Hospital in Nashua for 28 years. Starting as an RN in the Emergency Department and leaving there as a Clinical Coordinator of Trauma Services. After becoming an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner, she started her career at the Manchester VA Medical Center and continued her employment there for 22 years. At the time of her retirement in March 2022 she was the Chief of Urgent Care at that facility.

For 26 years she was employed part time at the Health Stop in Nashua, as

well as Health Services at Rivier University. At the time of her death, she was the Medical Director of Health Services at Rivier.

Her love of Emergency Department Nursing led her to a very active interest and participation in Emergency Medical Services in the State of New Hampshire. She was a member of Region II EMS Council and the Chairman of the Training Committee for 15 years. She became an EMT instructor, and taught and took the first EMT-Intermediate Course in the State of New Hampshire. She was proud to be an Associate Faculty Member in the Paramedic Program at the Concord Technical Institute and New England EMS at Elliot Hospital. She was a member of the Granite State Critical Incident Stress Debriefing Team, which allows providers in the EMS system to assist their coworkers when they need support after experiencing a critical incident.

She was proud to be the recipient of the YWCA Distinguished Woman Leader award, the Louis Sleeper Award for contributions to EMS, and the Pamela Mitchell/Richard Connolly EMS Achievement Award.

She was predeceased by the love of her life, David J. Connor, MD, her beloved son and daughter James and Karen Stys, and her most loved grandson Stephen David Strong.

Survivors include David J. Connor, Jodi Connor, Sheri Macpherson, Jeffrey Strong, and Kenneth (Georgette) Stys. She is especially grateful for being blessed with her fantastic grandchildren Jacob Stys, Taylor Connor, Ryan Connor and Marissa Stys. She is also survived by her brother James L. Handley of Sarasota, Florida, her sisters Margaret (John) Feeney and Judith Handley of Framingham, her nieces Maris Handley, Mary Kate Feeney, Courtney Southgate and her nephews James L. Handley and John J. Feeney. She is proud to have Celine Fortin, William Emond, Daniel Dolan and the EMS community as her extended family. She is extremely grateful to have John and Nancy Stanton in her life and thank them for the years of care and love.

Visiting hours will be held on Friday, May 17th from 4pm - 7pm in the Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Ferry Street in Hudson. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Saturday, May 18th at 10am in St. Kathryn Church, 4 Dracut Road in Hudson. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery in Hudson. In lieu of flowers the family encourages donations be made in Liz's loving memory to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute at www.dana-farber.org/

Previous Events

VISITING HOURS

MAY 17. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Dumont-Sullivan Funeral Home Hudson, NH
50 Ferry Street
Hudson, NH 03051
(603) 882-9431
info@dumontsullivan.com

MASS AT CHURCH

MAY 18. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Kathryn's Church
4 Dracut Rd.
Hudson, NH

Tribute Wall

EC

“ I’m at The VA in Manchester now and Just learned that Liz passed. 😭 What an amazing lady and someone I really loved and looked fwd to saying hi when I was here. GOD BLESS HER 🙏❤️

Eric J Carlson - May 21, 2025 at 01:30 PM

GB

“ I was blessed to meet Liz at the Manchester VA, and she quickly became one of my favorites. She was never too busy to say hi, listen or offer advice on any subject - personal or professional. She was a great help when we were working through my dad's health issues, and always checked to see how he was. I will miss your fierce spirit. God bless you.

Gail Brown - May 20, 2024 at 09:33 AM

PZ

“ I am sorry to hear of Liz’s passing. I had the honor of working with Liz at the Manchester VA. I remember walking with Liz through Urgent Care when she stopped to greet a patient, and she asked what he was doing here, to which he replied, “I came to see you”. Liz knew all of her patients and they all loved her. Healthcare has lost a true hero!

Paul Zimmerman

Paul Zimmerman - May 18, 2024 at 11:24 AM

MP

“ I remember when Doc died. I wrote a poem explaining how I lost a friend and mentor. I remember when Liz came to me and shared how much it meant to her. I never lost that sense of how one person can make someone else’s grief lessened. I was able to reconnect with Liz when she was at the VA and was sending me a patient at the ER. She was proud that I was an ER provider now. She trained my dad and mentored my mentors. I am proud to try to pass that influence on. She will be missed.

Maurice Paquette - May 18, 2024 at 10:17 AM

GS

“ Liz, you were a bit of a legend whether you knew it or not. Not many have given so much of themselves as you did over such a long and incredible career in healthcare. Rest in peace Liz and thank you for being a great ally of mine.

Garrett Stumb - May 17, 2024 at 07:37 PM

DD

“ Sincerely sorry for your loss she was loving and caring person who touched us all she will always be in our hearts, from David Deneau, and peter Thomas



david deneau - May 17, 2024 at 05:15 PM



“ Sincerely sorry to hear of Liz's passing. I got to know her as my time in EMS started in 1982. She was such a loving and caring person to all whose lives she touched. I thank God I knew her and was forever touched by her life. Well Done Good and Faithful servant.



May 17, 2024 at 03:34 PM



“ Heaven gained an angel, a truly remarkable woman with countless lives impacted by her talents, compassion, care, humor, and tenacity to bring family, friends and colleagues together. She's surely resting in peace now. May every person who knew her somehow find comfort in all the wonderful memories shared with her, never to be forgotten.

David Perault and Family - May 17, 2024 at 03:13 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Mary Elizabeth Connor.



May 17, 2024 at 10:12 AM

CJ

“ So very hard to believe that Liz has left us.
My memories are based on being one of her ER/Trauma nurses at St. Joe's. Her compassion and ability to teach made us better. She was the first to visit me after I gave birth..almost in the ER and almost made contact to see how my son was doing..that was Liz..with a huge sense of family.
For me she opened the world of EMS and made it a part of patient care..not a separate entity.
She was not just a supervisor but a friend. Will be missed but her legacy livesbi ..along with her immaculate beehive hairdo!
Your work here is completed so rest my friend and say hi to Dr. C!

Mike and Connie Jackson, RN, BSN.

Connie Jackson - May 16, 2024 at 10:00 PM

RM

“ So very sad to hear. I was lucky enough to work with her at the VA. I loved her sense of humor and quick wit, she always made me laugh. She was just an all around wonderful person and heaven has gained a beautiful angel! She will be sorely missed.

Renee Myrdek - May 16, 2024 at 05:41 PM

AT

“ Liz will be missed at the VA. She brought a lot of humanity to her practice .

Anne Tarry - May 16, 2024 at 04:12 PM

SA

“ Liz was ALWAYS a straight forward woman and Provider alike. At the VA she was easy to admire with all of her natural, real world, wisdom. Her knowledge, straightforward approach, and overall force of nature will make her spirit always live on in my memory. I had no problem trusting her with my patients nor my Veteran family alike. I knew they were in good hands! The world has lost an amazing person. God bless all of her family/friends, this is a loss like few others. Rest in peace my friend.

Stephanie Ainsworth - May 15, 2024 at 08:41 PM

MJ

Li, was my mentor at St. Joe's Er. She was caring and encouraged me to grown in the EMS field with hubby. Dr. David Connor. We met one day at a hamburger stand where she met our granfson and frequently she would text to see how we were all doing! An incredible human being and very passionate about developing the first trauma unit in Nashua and supporting her nurses in growing and her awesome beehive hairdo! Liz You will be missed but your legacy as my ER supervisor and friend will never leave me. God bless and may you rest now.

Mike and Connie Jackson, RN

Mike and Connie Jackson - May 16, 2024 at 09:42 PM

LM

“ The world has lost an amazing woman. I worked with Liz the 22 years she was at the VA. She was an amazing provider to her patients and a steadfast and supportive coworker to us all at the VA. More importantly she was a friend with an honest and kind soul. 💔

Lorraine Moore - May 15, 2024 at 07:43 PM

GR

“ Liz was a friendly face, and a reliable team-player here at the VA, always helpful in streamlining care for our Veterans. It was an honor to know her and work with her for many years.

Gil Rueck - May 15, 2024 at 01:30 PM

KR

“ One of the finest people I have ever known....met Liz in the 70s as a wave of change in EMS was sweeping into the area she was in the forefront of change in the 70s and continued that throughout her life May... God Bless and keep you Liz!!

Ken Renoux - May 15, 2024 at 01:14 PM

FC

“ I'm very sorry to see this,, Liz was an anchor in our EMS community, and took kindly to teaching us knuckle dragging Firemen. My sincere condolences to her family 🙏

Fred Conti - May 15, 2024 at 12:03 PM

HE

“ I'm so sorry to hear the loss of Liz. I worked with Liz at the VA, she was amazing and always helped and guided me. I will miss her. Sending my thoughts and prayers to her friends and family.

Heather Elliott - May 15, 2024 at 10:39 AM

NG

“ I met Liz first time when I did my women health mini-residency in Orlando, in 2006. She was an amazing person, loyal colleague, and was always here for me when in need. I am so sorry to hear she passed.

Natalia Gorecki - May 15, 2024 at 09:56 AM

MG

“ One of the most No nonsense, Tell you like it is, people that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing! You always got the REAL Liz and that is so admirable! Great conversations and great memories! Liz will be missed! (Mike Goff)

Mike Goff - May 15, 2024 at 09:51 AM

BO

“ I have nothing but praise for LizBeth. An angel on earth and now with her loved ones. I am sure she was greeted in heaven with open arms. I am honored to have worked with you and to call you my friend. You will be truly missed. Caru ti a colli chi.

Bonnie - May 15, 2024 at 09:49 AM

TP

“ I met Liz in 2003 when I started working at the VA Urgent Care. I worked with her for about 13 years. She went above and beyond with the Veterans and she was, always, there when I needed her. Beyond work, she was a dear friend. I love you to the moon and back, LizBeth. I know you will continue your angel-like duties up in heaven. (Tina Mandrioli)

Tina Porter - May 15, 2024 at 09:22 AM

SC

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Liz passing. It was an honor to work with her here at the VA. She could always be counted on for guidance/support and I truly appreciated her blatant honesty. Liz you are missed and will never be forgotten, thanks again for your service to our Veterans. Thoughts prayers and condolences to her family, friends and the countless lives she has touched.



Scott Chaplin - May 15, 2024 at 08:54 AM

DM

“ I am so sorry to hear about Liz passing. I worked with her at the VA. Anytime I saw her it was the light of my day. Sending condolences to the family. She was an amazing woman and is so missed!

Dannel Mayhall

Dannel Mayhall - May 15, 2024 at 08:51 AM

JC

“ Worked with Liz at the VA .Enjoyed my time with Liz, our special talk's and GREAT advice she always gave me. such a sweet lady she will never be Forgotten you will be missed .Thank You Again.

Joanne Croasdale

JOANNE CROASDALE - May 15, 2024 at 08:50 AM

BB

“ The only way to describe Liz was "amazing." She was a force to be reckoned with. When she wanted or needed something done for our Veterans, there were no questions asked, you just took care of it. I feel privileged to have met and worked with her. Family was everything to her, both her personal family and her VA family, Veterans. After she left, she never forgot you. If she saw you out in the community she would always stop and chat. A wonderful, devoted, take charge woman. Liz, you will be missed by all. I am honored to have met you.

Brigid Blake - May 15, 2024 at 08:48 AM

JM

“ I am so sorry to hear of Liz passing. I have had the pleasure of working with Liz when was in Occupational health at the VA. She was amazing with our nations Veterans and staff at the VA. Everyone was always well cared for under Liz watch. She was a great mentor as well and encouraged me on my journey from LPN to RN. She would always tell me to keep going you got this and that I was going to be a great RN. I will always be very appreciative of Liz. She will be deeply missed. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family during this time.
-Jillian Moreau

Jillian Moreau - May 15, 2024 at 08:40 AM

MW

“ I worked with Liz at the VA Urgent Care for several years. After Liz "retired" we had brunch & she expressed difficulty going from 72 hour work weeks to 20 hours (she continued to teach). She longed to work and serve! Liz loved Jesus and her faith was strong. Love you Dear Friend.

Molly Mae Washington - May 15, 2024 at 08:38 AM

JC

“ I am so very sorry for Liz's passing and my condolences for the family members and her friends. I worked in a different service line than Liz at the Manchester VA, but she was one of my favorite providers in Urgent Care. She really cared about the Veterans and she was an outstanding provider. She was very knowledgeable in her medical field. I loved the fact she was so blunt and told you whatever what was on her mind. A lot of times when I had to go to Urgent Care, she took very good care of me. She will be so very missed. My thoughts and prayers to her family and friends during this difficult time. Jennifer K. Chandler

Jennifer K. Chandler - May 15, 2024 at 08:35 AM

DY

“ I worked with Liz at the VA for many years. Her devotion to her patients and veterans, was remarkable. She will be sorely missed and her legacy will remain. Thoughts and prayers to her family. I was honored to have served with her for our Granite State veterans.

Devon York - May 15, 2024 at 08:26 AM

GM

“ I am so sorry and heartbroken to hear the news of Liz passing. I have known Liz from the Va and she always gave her all to our Veteran pts. She helped me many times with our urology pts. She was a great provider and a wonderful person to know. Thoughts and prayers to all her family. She will be missed. Love Ginny Masse

Ginny Masse - May 14, 2024 at 10:06 PM

LE

“ Liz welcomed me to the VA. Because of her, I was able to gain the privilege of working with and for veterans. I remember her as the most loving, no-nonsense person: a force to be reckoned with. I miss her. I am glad I knew her and worked with her.

Laura Emmick - May 14, 2024 at 10:00 PM

ML

“ 35 years ago in the lower level of the St Joseph's School of Nursing, I met Liz Conner. Dr Conner and Kiz shaped my EMS career more than any two people. I went in as a smarty pants with a PhD, but the knowledge of gained over tbe years from Liz wad more valuable than all those degrees professors. In addition, i learned to be a good and caring provider. I was honored to have Liz as a friend. Prayers to her family, she loved yall over all else.10-7, dear friend

mary katherine lockwood - May 14, 2024 at 08:48 PM

DM

“ I worked with Liz at the VA for many years. She was a wonderful person and always gave each patient her full attention. She was a great friend and she will be missed greatly.

Doreen Mitchell - May 14, 2024 at 08:44 PM

SM

“ My heart breaks for all who loved Lizzie. I met her as a child when as a friend of the Handleys. She was always wonderfully sweet and kind....as demonstrated in her work with compassion and empathy. Peace and love to all Liz leaves behind.
Scott McCarthy

Scott McCarthy - May 14, 2024 at 08:43 PM

KR

“ Liz was outstanding as a PA at Health Stop and cared for myself and my family members over the years . She treated everyone as though they were family . Karen Rothschild

Karen Rothschild - May 14, 2024 at 06:45 PM

SL

“ I worked closely with Liz at the VA. She was so loved and I miss my visits from her. My husband only wanted to see her when he needed UC, and if she was available you can bet she would do it. Her VA family feels this loss. To her family, you were here shining stars.

Stella Lareau - May 14, 2024 at 06:35 PM

GB

“ I am so sorry to hear about the loss of Liz. I got the honor of working with her closely her last couple years at the VA. She will be missed.

Greg Baker - May 14, 2024 at 06:33 PM

AM

“ I worked with Liz at the VA. She was such a wonderful person & cared so much for our veterans. I hope her family may take some comfort in knowing how much she meant to us.



Allison Mangels - May 14, 2024 at 05:59 PM

DW

I worked with Liz for many years on the 3rd floor at the VA. She was so caring and compassionate with her patients as well as her colleges. A memory I will never forget is when she provided dinner for us (her colleges) at her place in Hampton. I brought my son, and she was so accommodating to us, making him his own special meal along with all the cooking she was already doing. A beautiful woman inside and out. A privilege to spend time with her.

Doris Worthen - May 15, 2024 at 08:43 AM

CE

It was such an honor to work with Liz at the VA. A warm caring person, excellent nurse practitioner dedicated to her profession and to her VA community. How blessed we all were to have her as a friend, care provider and colleague. Sending sincere sympathy to her family. She will be sorely missed

Claudette Edwards

Claudette Edwards - May 15, 2024 at 08:06 PM