



## Elizabeth "Liz" Ann Ennis

March 4, 1942 - June 10, 2021

Elizabeth Ann Ennis, age 79, of New Buffalo, Michigan, passed away on June 10, 2021. Liz, as she preferred to be known, was born March 4, 1942, in Gary, Indiana. Liz attended St. Luke's grade school and was graduated from Emerson High School. She continued her education at Indiana University, earning both bachelor's and master's degrees. Ultimately, she earned a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Oklahoma University.

Liz taught speech and drama in the Gary public schools until she decided to go into educational administration. She first served as an administrator in the Hammond School District. She then served as Director of High Schools in Oklahoma City Public Schools, while completing course work toward her doctoral degree. Liz began her tenure in High School District 214 in Arlington Heights, first as principal of Wheeling High School, then as Deputy Superintendent, and finally Superintendent of Schools.

Liz participated in many civic organizations. She was an active member of the Rotary Club in Arlington Heights, and she served for four years on the New Buffalo City Council. She was an active member of the League of Women Voters, the Democratic Party, the Pokagon Foundation, and Friends of the Library. This does not begin to do justice to the work she did in her chosen fields of expertise.

Liz had an incredibly warm and outgoing personality, and having the infamous

Irish gift of gab, could talk publicly with seeming ease on most any occasion. She had a wonderful way of talking to teenagers and was known to mentor them and her professional colleagues. Among her many outstanding qualities, she was creative, kind, generous, loving and talented. She kept friendships, some for as long as 76 years and treasured her friends and family.

Liz was preceded in death by her father, Edward P. Ennis, her beloved mother, Elizabeth (Murphy)Ennis, and her brothers, James and Timothy. Survivors include cousins and her partner of 34 years Annette Van Dusen.

Memorial visitation will be held on June 18, 2021, from 3 pm to 6 pm with a Time of Sharing at 5 pm CST at Burns Funeral Home, 10101 Broadway, Crown Point, IN. A private mass will be held on Saturday. If there are those who prefer to make contributions in lieu of flowers, Liz supported the St. Jude's Children's Hospital, Lambda Legal and St Joseph's Carmelite Home- [www.carmelitehome.org](http://www.carmelitehome.org)

# Previous Events

## Memorial Visitation

JUN 18. 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
<https://www.burnsfuneral.com/>

## Time of Sharing

JUN 18. 5:00 PM (CT)

Burns Funeral Home & Crematory - Crown Point  
10101 Broadway  
Crown Point, IN 46307  
(219) 769-0044  
info@burnsfuneral.com  
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# Tribute Wall

JS

“ Our most heartfelt sympathies for you Annette! May you find some comfort in God’s love during this time! Rest peacefully now Liz in your heavenly home! 🙏

*Joni and Ed Sepiol*

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**Joni Sepiol** - June 17, 2021 at 01:35 AM

“ Jim and I made a donation to Lambda Legal in Liz's memory. We are very sad this week but we also know how lucky we are to have known and loved Liz so well. We love you too, Annette, and look forward to many happy times together in the coming years.

We met Liz in 2008 when she and Annette came to a volunteer recruitment meeting at our newly opened Obama for President office in Union Pier. Somewhere I have a picture from that day -- Liz is one of many new people in a huge circle of chairs. She was an extraordinary phone bank volunteer that year -- able to talk and listen effectively and compassionately with any kind of voter on any topic.

When the election was over, we wanted to remain friends with Liz and Annette. They said they played bridge, so we called them and set up a game. As it turned out, she was a terrible bridge player who never improved as often as we played. But that didn't matter -- it was the device that enabled a long, wonderful, close friendship.

In the years that followed we shared many meals, parties and celebrations together. We continued to work to inform and empower the electorate of Berrien County. We took vacations to Puerto Vallarta together. We'll never forget Liz's rendition of "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" at dinner on the beach one glorious night.

When marriage equality became the law of the land, we witnessed Liz and Annette's wedding in Chicago and -- a few months later -- were declared husband and husband by "minister" Liz here in Palm Springs.

We will always remember Liz with love.

Bob Miller and Jim Vopat



**Bob Miller** - June 17, 2021 at 12:49 AM

BJ

“ *As a member of the HS214 leadership team, I was privileged to have worked with Liz during her tenure as superintendent. Throughout those years, I found her to be a kind and compassionate individual who always made time to listen to the viewpoints of others and treat all with dignity and respect. My remembrance of Liz will always be the twinkle in her eyes, the smile on her face and the engaging conversations we shared.*

**Bill Johnson** - June 16, 2021 at 09:59 AM

JO

*My mother, Mary Oppman, was very fond of Liz and always spoke so highly of her.*

*Both these energetic dedicated leaders will be sorely missed when our education system right now needs more leadership such as theirs.*

**John** - June 16, 2021 at 01:48 PM

AL

“ *Liz was a wonderful person and I am grateful for the times I was given to be in her company. She was truly a joy to know. Annette, my thoughts and prayers are with you. and also to all of her friends who loved her so very much.*

*Audrey Lucas. .  
Ann Arbor, MI .*

**Audrey M. Lucas** - June 15, 2021 at 05:48 PM

DR

“ Liz hired me at Wheeling in 1991 and I spent my 30 year career there as a dance teacher. She was a fierce advocate for the arts at Wheeling and the district level and continued to support our program even after she retired. Liz was always in your corner helping us do what was best for students in our buildings and the community. There are so many legacies and innovations that happened because of her compassionate leadership. She will be sorely missed and I am personally forever grateful for the impact she had on my life.

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**Diane Rawlinson** - June 15, 2021 at 02:43 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Elizabeth "Liz" Ann Ennis.



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June 15, 2021 at 02:41 PM

TM

“ I got to know Liz first as my principal at Wheeling high school and then as our District 214 Superintendent. She was a wonderful, caring person and I benefitted in many ways by her warm demeanor. I will genuinely miss her.

*Terry Mondy*  
*Former WHS staff member*

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**Terrence Mondy** - June 15, 2021 at 01:45 PM

BK

“ Liz,

*May the angels lead you to paradise and may perpetual light shine upon you. May your soul and the souls of all the faithfully departed rest in peace.*

*Rev. Mr. Bob Kepshire*

*(Son of your deceased cousin, Maureen (Ennis) Kepshire)*

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**Bob Kepshire** - June 14, 2021 at 06:03 PM