



Ellen Carol Rains Harris

October 31, 1957 - October 2, 2018

A fifth generation Oklahoman, Ellen Harris was born in Altus, Oklahoma to James Robert (“Red”) and Robbie Morgan Rains. She was raised in Altus and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where she attended U.S. Grant High School. Ellen studied at the University of Oklahoma, and held Bachelor of Arts and Master of Liberal Studies degrees from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. She was a lifelong supporter of the OU Sooners of Norman, Oklahoma (BOOMER!).

She was raised in the Church of Christ, and became an Episcopalian in her early adult life. She met her husband of nearly 35 years, Benjamin Hooper Harris, at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Oklahoma City, where she was an alto in the choir. They were married on December 22, 1983.

Ellen and Hooper lived in Oklahoma City, Orlando, Florida and Alexandria, Virginia before moving to Houston, Texas in 2011. She was a member of New Covenant Episcopal Church, Winter Springs, Florida, the Cathedral Church of St. Luke, Orlando, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Alexandria, and finally, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, Houston. At various times over these years, she served as a lay reader, lay Eucharistic minister, and choir member. At the time of her death she was an active student in the Education for Ministry program at Emmanuel.

Ellen worked in many fields. She was a copywriter at the Daily Oklahoman, an Adjunct Professor of the humanities at Valencia Community College, and network administrator for a defense and government contractor.

She offered her time and effort in a variety of volunteer roles as well, serving on the Arts Commission of Alexandria, and the Boards of the Herrington Harbor Sailing Association and the South Seminole Christian Sharing Center.

She and Hooper hosted many foreign students in their Orlando years, and maintained close and loving friendships with several. She travelled to weddings in France, and on business trips with Hooper to Hong Kong and London.

She particularly enjoyed exploring the Chesapeake aboard her sloop Tabasco. While Hooper fancied himself to be the Captain, she was definitely the Admiral.

In 2006, she was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension, a disease which changed her life. A rare disease, PH drew the best out of Ellen. Her naturally inquisitive mind and firm resolve to survive made her an ardent student of the disease, to the point that her pulmonologist noted that she knew more about PH than most doctors. She vigorously engaged with the Pulmonary Hypertension Association; she facilitated chat rooms, was a support group leader and an active campaigner for research for a cure. She helped many new patients understand their disease, and gave them the knowledge, the hope and the will to survive.

Along the way, the toll of the loss of her friends was heavy, but, never the less, she persisted. She often said that she had PH, but PH did not have her.

In the end, the stress of PH, the underlying scleroderma, and a newly diagnosed cancer exceeded even her strong will to live. She departed this

world in the presence of her husband, at her home.

Ellen was preceded in death by her father and her mother-in-law, Anne Harris; she leaves her mother, husband, sister Jane Moskowitz, brothers Dale and Dean Rains, sisters-in-law Laurie Swoff Rains, Kathy Farmer and Kathryn Harris, brothers-in-law Michael Moskowitz, Mark Harris and Chris Harris, nieces Morgan and Allie Rains, Ema Harris-Sintamarian, and nephews Garrett and Austin Moskowitz, and Matthew and Stephen Harris.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers, you consider a donation to the Pulmonary Hypertension Association <https://phassociation.org/>.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 2:00 PM at Emmanuel Episcopal Church at Temple Sinai, 13875 Brimhurst Drive, Houston, TX 77077.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

OCT 13. 2:00 PM (CT)

Emmanuel Episcopal Church at Temple Sinai
13875 Brimhurst Drive
Houston, TX 77077

Tribute Wall



“ *Ellen Carol Rains Harris*

October 08, 2023 at 10:52 AM



“ *Ellen Carol Rains Harris*

October 06, 2023 at 01:12 AM



“ *Ellen Carol Rains Harris*

October 05, 2023 at 09:45 AM




“ *Ellen Carol Rains Harris*

October 05, 2023 at 01:54 AM



“ *Thank you Ellen for your good natured support and sarcasm towards my enemies. You gave us all permission to be our quirky selves, and spoiled me with your love. Rest In Peace. Home is the sailor, home from the sea. Hooper, you had a wonderful bride.*

Sharon Carnahan - October 13, 2018 at 05:05 PM

 Teresa Meyers

“ We met Ellen about 7 years ago at your front door. My daughter Shaye has PH and I was taking them trick or treating in your neighborhood, which was my inlaws also and one of my girls said " Mom, look someone put a PH awareness card in our bag". We back tracked our steps and knocked on your door. I asked if you knew anyone with PH and you said, yes me and I put that card in there. A friendship was started that day. Ellen was there through the past 7 years for support, laughter and tears. I miss her daily posts on FB making me laugh. The PH community has truly lost someone special and we will never forget you Ellen! Shaye and I love you!



Teresa Meyers & Family

Teresa Meyers - October 10, 2018 at 09:35 PM

DP

“ Mr. Harris, i worked at BP when yall would come into the dental office, i met Ellen then and learned we shared this disease and the same doctor. I asked her advice over the years , she was such a wise woman, and she was such a great source of support, knowledge, and friendship. The PH world will not be the same without her. I wish you peace in times like these.

Danna A. Page - October 10, 2018 at 09:00 AM

RF

“ Our heartfelt condolences to you Hooper and your family.
"Some time at eve, when the tide is low,
I shall slip my moorings and sail away"
These words seem fitting for a sailor and the Admiral of Tabasco.
Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Richard Farmer and the team

Richard Farmer - October 10, 2018 at 04:05 AM

CL

“ Ellen was one in a million and those who knew her through the PHA will miss her great wisdom as well as her sharp wit. Boomer!

Cindy Lee - October 09, 2018 at 08:29 PM

BT

“ My deepest sympathies to Hooper & family. My heart aches for the entire PH world. We lost an advocate, an educator and an all around good PHriend. Breathe easy & fly free Ellen. The world will not be the same without you in it.



Barbara Thompson - October 09, 2018 at 05:59 PM

SL

“ We send our Deepest Sympathy to Ellen's entire family. We will keep all of you in our prayers. I only knew Ellen through the internet with all the others PH support group leaders that would share information and give hope to many. Ellen was a very strong lady and she was one of our HERO'S. RIP and breath easy Ellen💜
Stephanie and Tom Layer
Minnesota Twin Cities PH Support group



Stephanie and Tom Layer - October 09, 2018 at 04:00 PM

MK

“ Our sincere condolences to Hooper and family. While we will all miss Ellen, take comfort in the fact that she's in a very special, peaceful place.

From: Your friends in the BP S&OR Strategy & Systems Team

Marc Kudla - October 09, 2018 at 02:45 PM

RK

“ I only met Ellen a couple times. She was so warm and wise. My most sincere sympathies to Hooper and all her family and close friends.

Randi Kuhne - October 09, 2018 at 12:31 PM

GS

“ It is with heavy hearts that we send this note of sympathy to Hooper and family for the loss of Dear Ellen. May you always remember the lovely memories you all have shared with her over the years and give you peace. Our prayers go out to you and your family during this sad time.

From: Richard Heron and the Health Team

Gretel Smith - October 09, 2018 at 12:24 PM

KF

“ I offer my deepest condolences to Ellen's family and friends. She will be missed dearly by many. R.I.P. and breathe easy.



Kimberlee Ford - October 09, 2018 at 02:07 AM

LA

“ Hooper and family, please accept my heartfelt sympathy for the your loss. She was a magnificent person. I'll never forget first meeting her. She was a ray of sunshine in a very dark time for me having just been diagnosed and knowing so little about it. She was a fountain of knowledge and so willing to share with all. May God hold you in th palm of his hand.



Linda Asberry - October 08, 2018 at 06:27 PM