



## Elfriede "Ellie" A. Parker

June 8, 1940 - April 21, 2021

Elfriede "Ellie" A. Parker, 80, passed away on April 21, 2021. She was born on June 8, 1940 to Joseph and Anna (Biel) Gessler in Bronx, NY. While living in New York City, she attended Hunter College and worked for IBM as a translator. She married Lawrence "Larry" Parker on February 8, 1964, and relocated to his hometown, Salem, OH, where they lived for 50+ years.

The hallmark of Ellie's life is energy - fueling her love of family and friends, travel and adventure, and fun and laughter. She truly never met a stranger - in Salem and throughout the travel she enjoyed around the country and the world. She gave of herself to all who knew her - as Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Daughter, Sister, Aunt, and Friend. Fun-loving - her ever-present smile and infectious laugh have been called out by many who knew her. She Mom-ed fiercely - living out one of her most repeated axioms to her children "I give you wings so you can fly", orchestrating every opportunity for travel, experience, and education. She was always there to listen and provide counsel (whether asked for or not), and then bring it home with laughter and hugs and tears (when needed). Omi was cherished by her grandchildren-Maggie, Jeffrey, Matthew, Jonathan, Nathaniel, Nolan, and JJ - who were assured of hugs, fun, and blueberry cake with every visit. In her daily walk, through good times and struggle, she was a centering force to her family.

At home, Ellie enjoyed extensive gardening, entertaining family and friends, and numerous endeavors. She embraced and loved Salem and its deep-rooted community. Some of her favorite endeavors included the First Presbyterian Church, Garden Club, the YWCA, Olympics of the Mind, the Salem Golf Club, and countless outings with a wide group of friends. Her own experience as an exchange student in Germany led her to host students and support both AFS and Rotary over a span of twenty years.

We thank God for calling her home, but she will be deeply missed, and her memory is forever cherished. We carry in our hearts all that she shared with us.

Ellie is preceded in passing by her parents; sister Caroline (Tony) Folkl; and brother Joe Gessler.

Left to cherish her memory are her beloved husband of 57 years, Larry Parker; her daughters Melanie (Gerry) Mayo, Laurel (David) Marques, Christopher (Emily) Parker, 7 grandchildren, in-laws Marie Gessler and Betty Jo (Bill) White, nieces and nephews, and

dear friends.

No public services will be held. Arrangements entrusted to SCHOEDINGER NORTHEAST FUNERAL HOME, 1051 East Johnstown Road, Gahanna, OH 43230. Interment will take place at Grandview Cemetery in Salem, OH, at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Ellie's memory to the Ohio Health Foundation (Kobacker House), Salem Community Foundation, or First Presbyterian Church of Salem, OH. To share a memory or leave online condolences, visit <http://www.schoedinger.com>.

# Comments

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“ To Larry and Family, we offer our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. Our family remembers Ellie's visits to shop with us Daniel E. Smith Jeweler, and the fun days socializing with Ellie and her family at the Salem Golf Club. My mom and I especially enjoyed playing tennis with Ellie at the Salem Country Club and we were always impressed with her ability to jump over the net. Blessings of peace to all. Jeanine Smith, Sebring, Ohio. Thad and Lisa Smith, Poland, Ohio.

**Thad Smith** - May 02 at 03:15 PM

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“ Please accept my sincere sympathy on Ellie's passing. Her laugh and spirit and "high kick" are unforgettable. We shared some rollicking laughter, a few shenanigans and maybe even a cigar at a local engagement party!! I saw her last at the dentist in Columbiana and she demonstrated she could still kick and laugh! She will leave a huge void for all who knew her. Prayers and Peace.

**Jenny Rukenbrod** - April 29 at 05:49 PM

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“ Larry & Family, I am so sorry to read of Ellie's passing. I wish you all Comfort and Peace.



**Melody "Mel" Barrett** - April 29 at 07:41 AM

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“ Our heartfelt condolences to the Marques family and to all those who are a part of Ellie's life. Loss is never easy but the lovely memories she leaves behind and the lessons she imparted will be with you always. May they give you comfort.

Blessings,

Brian and Linda Schmidt

**Linda Schmidt** - April 29 at 01:06 AM

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“ You captured her essence with that wonderful picture and thoughtful words. Her "ever present smile and infectious laugh" made all who knew her feel welcome and at ease. I was honored and blessed that our lives intersected in many ways over the years. My sincere condolences to all of Ellie's family.

With love, Barb Loudon

**Barbara Loudon** - April 28 at 06:54 PM

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“ Lydia Stroul lit a candle in memory of Elfriede "Ellie" A. Parker



**Lydia Stroul** - April 28 at 11:00 AM