



*Ellen Elizabeth Farris  
Romani*

**July 31, 1952 - Jan. 11, 2025**

Ellen Elizabeth Farris Romani, died on Saturday, January 11, 2025. Ellen was diagnosed with early onset Parkinson's Disease at age 59 and true to her love of science and her career in hospital laboratories. She spent the last 14 years participating in studies that searched for treatment and a cure for a disease that was progressive and debilitating. She participated in more than 25 bi-annual studies through the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research – confident that with continued research a cure could be found.

Ellen began her career in the clinical laboratory shortly after graduating from Glen Alpine High School in 1970. While still in high school, she took a part-time job working in the office of Dr. Ralph Kibler who sent her to the lab at the old Grace Hospital to learn to draw blood and perform simple blood test. At Grace Hospital, she met Madeline Dalmas, Lucille Smith, and Dr. John C. Reece, who encouraged her to go to college and influenced her life tremendously. They ignited a lifetime of curiosity in medical laboratory science.

She earned an associate degree from Western Piedmont Community College, B.S. Degree in Biology from USC-Upstate, and a Master of Healthcare Administration from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, all while working full-time at Marv Black Hospital. Spartanburg Regional Health System and Hilton Head Hospital

many Black Hospital, Spartanburg Regional Health System and Pikes Peak Hospital Systems. She ended her career as Department Chair for Allied Health Sciences at Spartanburg Community College.

Ellen was preceded in death by her husband, Arnaldo Romani, her parents, Ben and Doris Farris, three brothers-in-law, Ronnie Mills, Cliff Stamper and Andy Pollard.

She is survived by one step-son, Arnold Romani, his wife, Suzie, and grandchildren Whitney, Danielle and Vince, and 2 great-grandchildren. Also surviving are her siblings, Donald Farris (Brenda), Wanda Mills, Judy Stamper, Phyllis Pollard, Keith Farris (Sandy), Mickey Farris (Gena), Sherrie Hughes (Rodney), and Jan McDougal (Scott).

Ellen counted herself fortunate to have extended family and friends that visited and helped her as her disease progressed. She wanted to express her thanks to her lifelong work and travel friends, Debbie Cash, Brenda Border, Glenda Sutton, Carole Morris and Jodi Forrester. Those friendships began while they were young students in community college and continued throughout their years of working and traveling together.

Ellen also wanted to express her gratitude to Hillary and Mark Biggerstaff, Drew and Leigh Ann Pollard, Cindy, Claire and Dale Boger, Joe and Carolyn Farris, Jane Jackson and the members of Bethel Methodist Church for their faithful visits and compassionate care during the past 14 years and to the staff at Henderson Care Facility where she lived in assisted care for the past two years.

The family will receive friends from 2 to 3 p.m., Sunday, January 19, 2025 in the Fellowship Hall at Bethel Methodist Church, 5011 Dysartsville Road, Morganton, NC. The funeral will follow at 3 p.m. in the church sanctuary with Ellen's brother, Rev. Donald Farris, officiating.

Memorial contributions should be directed to Bethel Church Cemetery Fund, 5011 Dysartsville Road, Morganton, NC, 28655, or the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinsons Research, Grand Central Station, P. O. Box 4777, New York, NY.

Sossoman Funeral Home and Crematory Center is assisting the family with the arrangements.

# Tribute Wall

I just learned of Ellen's death. I worked with her at MBMH. I remember her infectious laugh and bright smile. She will be missed.

—Kate Cannon

I am just learning of your passing, Ellen. I am forever thankful for your friendship and mentorship in my early career. You gave me the opportunity to help with the laboratory information system at HHI Laboratory and that opportunity changed the course of my career. I will never forget your kindness. Rest in peace, Ellen.

—Eileen White

Thinking of your sweet family. I remember Ellen and sisters from Glen Alpine. Wishing peace for all.

—Martha Ollis



—Rodney Hughes and Sherrie F. Hughes



Sherrie, Rodney & family sorry for the loss of your sister, grandmother. friends & extended familv. Praving for v'all



grandmother, friends & extended family. Praying for you during this time & the days ahead. May you find peace in the Lord. Love each one of you

—Randy & Norma Speagle



—Sharon Piercy Cain



Dear Ellen, you will be dearly missed and I hope that you and everyone else light the sky every night and make it as beautiful as y'all are. I rung your bell one last time for you in memory of how amazing it has been with you. Thank you for teaching me things that I didn't know I needed to learn I. I love and miss you sweet lady.

—Alyssa Greene

My dear sweet aunt, You will be missed. You were certainly a light in my life. All my love, Cindy

—Cindy Boger

MY DEAREST ELLEN, OH HOW I'M GONNA MISS YOU! I HAVE KNOWN YOU FOR THE LAST TWO YEAR'S...I HAVE ENJOYED OUR MANY CONVERSATIONS THROUH THE YEAR'S OH ELLEN MAY YOU "RIP"

—JUDY NEELY



Worked with Ellen at MBMH. She was special co worker and taught many about our Lab field. Prayers for the family and her special friends.

—Pam Evans



Hoping you rest in eternal peace after the long struggles.

—Robert Reynolds

So sorry for your loss, I loved Ellen, she was a dear friend, may God comfort you all in the days ahead.

—Ozelle Sotelo



Phyllis, Dean and I are so saddened to hear of your loss. We are keeping you in our thoughts and prayers.

—Vickie Icard and Dean