



## Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte

November 12, 1948 - January 4, 2019

Easton:

Kathleen Elizabeth Witte (“Kathy”) of Easton, MD died Friday evening January 4, 2019 peacefully at her home. Kathy was the first born daughter of the late Roy Drake Witte Sr. and Agnes Morrison Witte. Born in Roanoke, VA on November 12, 1948, she was raised in Hagerstown, MD in the family home on Fountainhead Road. She was the oldest of 6 siblings. She graduated from North Hagerstown High School, received her BA at Virginia Tech and her JD at the University Of Baltimore School Of Law.

Kathy’s family was remarkably close. Way too early in life her fantastic parents Roy and Aggie passed away at the ages of 52 and 55 within 3 weeks of each other leaving Kathy at the helm. It was a very busy ship that she sailed with 4 sisters, a brother, a nephew, and myriad cousins and close family friends. Kathy started the family tradition of the Orphans’ Thanksgiving, all were welcome at her table – nobody was ever turned away. She made sure that everyone was welcome in her house, a tradition that extended well past the holiday and became a way of life in her everyday philosophy.

Among holding together this fabulous family she had numerous accomplishments and projects. Her resume included Project Manager for Union Station, Georgetown Park, Chevy Chase Pavilion, Easton Market Square and Hospitality Director for 1984 Summer Olympics. Deciding to pursue her many passions she opened up the Chesapeake Antique Center in Queenstown, MD with her beloved, devoted husband and partner Stephen Leocha and her cousin Winfield Miller. Together Kathy & Stephen also started, along with her sister Annie Witte Raymond, Chesapeake Chicken and Rockin’ Ribs Restaurants. Restaurants and Antiques were a family affair that also included nephew Roy Drake Witte III and almost every family member at some point had to don the “Chicken Suit”. She was the Mother Hen and she took great care of all. Nobody ever worked for Kathy, they just became another chair at her table – she loved everyone equally. In Easton, she was owner of The Witte Collection and a frequent and devoted supporter to many different charitable causes including Eventful Giving, Talbot Hospice, Talbot Humane and the Chesapeake Film Festival.

She was diagnosed with cancer in 2002 but refused to let it beat her. She fought her illness with dignity, grace and a fantastic sense of style. She was rarely seen, even on her

darkest days, without a fresh coat lipstick. Her charm and humor bewitched us all – so much so that we often forgot the illness that raged inside her.

She is survived by her beloved husband Stephen Leocha, siblings: Roy Drake Witte, Jr. and his wife Patricia Witte, Martha Witte Suss and her husband Fred Suss, Rosamond Witte Baldwin and her husband Jamie Baldwin, Annie Witte Raymond, Mary Kennedy Witte, her cousin Winfield Miller and his wife Sandie Miller, Uncle Hamilton Morrison Sr., Nieces and Nephews: Roy Drake Witte III, Ray Mitchell Witte, Quintus Peter Suss, Leah Grace Witte, Emily Lama, Trent Kennedy Witte, Olivia McGuire Suss, Mollie Agnes Raymond, Hanna Smith, May Witte Baldwin, and Ryan Miller.

A Memorial Service will be held at 1:00pm on Friday, January 11, 2019 at Christ Church Episcopal, 111 S. Harrison Street, Easton, MD.

Donations may be made “In Memory of Kathleen Elizabeth Witte” to Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, Attn: Elliott Pollock, 885 Second Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10017. Or online at [http://mskcc.convio.net/goto/Kathleen\\_Elizabeth\\_Witte](http://mskcc.convio.net/goto/Kathleen_Elizabeth_Witte)

Kathleen was also a terrific lover of animals and local donations can be made in her honor to The Talbot Humane Society ([www.talbothumane.org](http://www.talbothumane.org)), PO Box 1143, Easton, MD 21601.

# Events

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**JAN Memorial Service 01:00PM**

**11**

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Christ Episcopal Church, Easton

111 S. Harrison Street, Easton, MD, US, 21601

# Comments

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“ We are sending our heartfelt prayers and sympathies to the Witte family.  
Ranelle Weeks Flurie  
Howie Weeks  
Hagerstown,MD

Ranelle Flurie - January 13 at 02:19 PM

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“ As many of us do, I lost track of most of my high school classmates after graduation and Kathy was, unfortunately for me, one of those people. As I read her obituary it gave me great joy to discover the accomplished life she led. Kathy obviously made the very most of every minute of every single day she was given and along the way enriched the lives of all who were fortunate enough to be part of her family and circle of friends. I feel much sadness for all of those who are left to go on without Kathy. Her spirit and accomplishments will be the legacy of a life well lived. I offer my sincere condolences to all who will find it difficult to move forward with their lives absent of this lovely and brave person.

Cheryl Durst  
NHHS Class of 1966

Cheryl Durst - January 13 at 11:03 AM

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“ My love and heartfelt condolences.... What times we had with the antiques and rotisseri! Kathy was quite a 'gal' and we will all miss her. Hugs to you all.  
Sally Borghardt

Sally Borghardt - January 11 at 09:06 AM

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“ It was such a pleasure to have worked with Kathleen on Union Station & other retail projects. She was always so happy, so positive, so responsible and so capable of dealing with the most complex issues. What a joy. Even after our days of working on retail projects together, we continued to share our mutual interest in antiques and things of quality. What good tastes Kathleen had. What a class act. Our most heartfelt condolences to Stephen, Kathleen's sisters, Winfield and other family members.  
Ken & Charlee Kauffman

Ken & Charlee Kauffman - January 11 at 06:40 AM

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“ Anne Latimer Gatrell lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte



Anne Latimer Gatrell - January 10 at 08:51 AM

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“ I have known Kathy since her high school days at North Hagerstown High School - she was a wonderful person - a class act and will be missed very much - God Bless Her!!!

Robert Garver - January 10 at 06:35 AM

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“ I had known Kathy for over 60 years and she was like a big sister to me. Kathy had such a wonderful spirit and a contagious laugh. She was a remarkable lady, inside and out. HUGS to all of the Write family.....my heart breaks for you..

Laurie Haugh - January 09 at 02:17 PM

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“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte.



January 09 at 12:35 PM

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“ Heavenly Grace Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte.



January 09 at 12:15 PM

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“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte.



January 09 at 11:17 AM

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“ Sending Peace and Love to the whole Witte family.



**Margot Ciolino** - January 09 at 08:48 AM

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“ Lavender Reflections Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte.



January 09 at 08:20 AM

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“ Rose and family, I am so sorry to hear of the loss of your beloved Kathleen. What a beautiful summary of her impressive and impactful life you shared... May you find light and comfort in your memories and the lessons learned from her. Sending love from Denise and Jacki Moses



**Denise Moses** - January 09 at 01:25 AM

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“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte.



January 08 at 07:47 PM

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“ Jack&Pat Weston lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte



**Jack&Pat Weston** - January 08 at 06:29 PM



“ Thanks Jack and Pat. It's been years. I'm going to press a call when I'm in Queenstown

**Stephen Leocha** - January 08 at 07:21 PM

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“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte.



January 08 at 04:34 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte.



January 08 at 03:16 PM

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“ John & Kristan Kinna purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte.



**John & Kristan Kinna** - January 08 at 01:20 PM

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“ Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet was purchased for the family of Mrs. Kathleen Elizabeth Witte.



January 08 at 09:04 AM