



## Ellen Roberts

August 26, 1940 - August 7, 2023

NORWAY- Ellen Kathleen (Hill) Roberts age 82, of Norway, passed away on Monday, August 7, 2023 surrounded by her family.

Ellen was born to Frank and Wilma Hill in Fresno, California on August 26, 1940. She grew up on a farm in the San Joaquin Valley and later moved to San Jose where she became an accomplished athlete and won gold medals as a sprinter in the US Junior Olympics. She then moved to San Francisco where she graduated from Galileo High School in 1959.

After High School she went to work for Bell Telephone. During that time, she met William Roberts where they were attendants at a friend's wedding. They were married July 23, 1960 at the Post Chapel at The Presidio of San Francisco where Bill was enlisted in the Army. After his discharge, they moved their lives and baby girl to Michigan Technological University. This was the first time Ellen had ever stepped out of the state of California or experienced falling snow.

During their time in Houghton they welcomed a son, before moving to Monroe, Michigan for Bill's first job. While in Monroe, their third child, a daughter, was born. In 1967 the Roberts family returned to the area, where they remained for 55 years. They spent 7 years in Niagara WI, 2 years in Ishpeming, and from 1976 to present in Norway.

In 1976 Ellen took up golf and utilized her natural athletic talent to quickly become one of the area's best golfers. She won the Oak Crest women's championship in 1988. Ellen played league volleyball across northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan for many years, her team winning many championships. She was an avid skier and regular fixture at Norway Mountain and later Pine Mountain up to the age of 78. Her love for skiing propelled her expertise in the boot department at the Pine Mountain Sport Shop where she enjoyed working with friends for 20 years. She also enjoyed playing bridge with various ladies in the local community.

In retirement Ellen and Bill traveled with a group of cherished friends called the "Ward Travelers". The family lovingly referred to this as "Bill and Ellen take their show on the road". Their travels took them to the northernmost point of Scandinavia to see the northern lights and to the mountain ruins of Machu Picchu in Peru. They cruised the Rhine and also saw the changing of the guards at Buckingham Palace. Ellen and Bill also enjoyed 20 years of getting out of the snow by traveling to Palm Springs CA and creating memorable adventures with Neal and Emily Johns.

"Elly" is best known for her joy and laughter, her sense of humor and love for everyone she meets. Ellen and Bill were passionate high school sports enthusiasts, winning Norway Knights "Fan of the Year" in both 1980 and 2010.

She is survived by her husband of 63 years Bill Roberts, her children Karen (Mike) Burritt of Channing MI, James (Paula) Roberts of Duncanville TX, and Kathleen (Lonnie) Wilson of Norway MI. She is also survived by her treasured grandchildren, Annie Burritt (Colin Cox), Sonya Swab, Sarah (David) Bowman, Jared Roberts, Daniel (Chelsea) Roberts, Benjamin (Abigail) Roberts, Joel (Mary) Roberts, Nathaniel Wilson, Samantha Wilson, Laura (Jordan) Pardee, Drew Wilson, Olivia (Andrew) Johnson, Micah Wilson, Aiden

Wilson, Ellie Wilson and 25 cherished great grandchildren; and brothers Frank and John Hill.

She is preceded in death by her mother Wilma Hodnett Costello, father Frank Hill, sister Dorothy Wilson, brother Dallas Hill, and mother-in-law Marjorie Roberts.

The family would like to extend the grateful thanks to the staff at Maryhill Manor for their exceptional care of Ellen.

Visitation will be held on Friday, August 11 from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Norway and on Saturday, August 12 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. with Pastor Jim Danielson, officiating.

Interment will follow at the Norway Township Cemetery, with pallbearers being her Grandsons

Jared Roberts, Daniel Roberts, Benjamin Roberts, Nathaniel Wilson, Joel Roberts, Drew Wilson, Micah Wilson, and Aiden Wilson.

A Memorial will be established in Ellen's name to the local Salvation Army or Moving Mountains Adaptive Ski Program.

# Cemetery Details

## Norway Township Cemetery

Norway Township, MI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 11. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Evangelical Covenant Church  
120 O'Dill Road  
Norway, MI 49870

## Visitation

AUG 12. 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM (CT)

Evangelical Covenant Church  
120 O'Dill Road  
Norway, MI 49870

## Service

AUG 12. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Evangelical Covenant Church  
120 O'Dill Road  
Norway, MI 49870

# Tribute Wall



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ellen Roberts.*



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August 11, 2023 at 11:29 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ellen Roberts.

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August 11, 2023 at 11:29 PM



“ *Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family of Ellen Roberts.*



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August 11, 2023 at 11:29 PM

AB

“ I wish I could be there to join in the tribute and remembrance today. It's hard to recall a time growing up that didn't involve the Roberts' gang. From the "shows" in your backyard, the dress up supper club dinners, the Wall Drug sign, the nightly games of kick the can or hide and seek. No grass ever had a chance to grow in either of our backyards. I cherish all those memories.... "Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is?" During high school she never missed a sports game or special event. And later on, she even helped me with my golf game. "Sweep the grass, turn your ....., point your ....." well, you know the rest. A mantra I repeat to this day. A beautiful woman with a kind and giving heart that raised some of the best people I have ever known. Certainly, she lives on in her family, in my heart, and in all that were lucky enough to know her. May God lift the light of His countenance upon her, and may He grant her eternal peace.

Amy Biolo - August 11, 2023 at 02:07 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Ellen Roberts.



August 10, 2023 at 05:29 PM

JC

“ My deepest sympathy is sent to Bill and family on your loss.

Joy Carlson - August 10, 2023 at 04:52 PM

DM

“ Heartfelt Condolences to Bill & his family on your loss.  
Rest in Peace Ellen!💔 Donna Mannigel

Donna Mannigel - August 10, 2023 at 04:09 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for  
the family of Ellen Roberts.



August 09, 2023 at 10:41 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ellen Roberts.

August 09, 2023 at 10:18 AM



“ Enchanted Cottage was purchased for the family  
of Ellen Roberts.



August 09, 2023 at 10:18 AM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ellen Roberts.

August 08, 2023 at 09:25 PM



“ *Crystal Cross Bouquet was purchased for the family of Ellen Roberts.*



August 08, 2023 at 09:25 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ellen Roberts.*



August 08, 2023 at 08:24 PM



“ *I met Ellen when she volunteered at Dickinson County Healthcare. I always looked forward to her coming in as she was a tremendous help in the Human Resource department. You have more than earned your wings Ellen. Rest In Peace lovely lady.*

**Leila Canavera** - August 08, 2023 at 07:02 PM



“ *I will never forget her laughter and sense of humor (“Bad Ellen” with ❤️) a California transplant to a Yooper who truly enjoyed life! Hugs 🤗 to her entire family, especially Bill.*

**Sandy spoelstra** - August 08, 2023 at 05:24 PM

RW

“ Karen, I'm so glad I was able to meet both of your parents over the years. The memory I have of your mother is her smile. I did not know her well, more through conversation with you. It is so hard to lose a parent @ I will pray for you & your family. Thinking of you!

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**Roberta Wilkes** - August 08, 2023 at 05:11 PM

DB

“ David & Linda Bowman purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Ellen Roberts.



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**David & Linda Bowman** - August 08, 2023 at 05:06 PM