



## Linda Ellis

April 15, 1952 - March 5, 2025

Linda Sanders Ellis passed away on Wednesday, March 5, 2025. She was born in Lebanon, Indiana, in the early hours of April 15, 1952. She was an only child. Her mother, Thelma Jean Foutch Sanders, was from the Sheridan, Indiana, area and was the daughter of Mabel and Willie Foutch. Mabel was a homemaker and the mother of six children, and Willie was a farmer and carpenter who constructed the family home which still stands today. Linda's father, Allen J. (Tubby) Sanders, was from the Indianapolis area and was one of the nine children of Irene Joyce Parker Sanders. His father, Leslie Sanders, was a scoundrel who spent much of his life going from town to town doing religious shows and extorting money from unsuspecting believers. Leslie died in Leavenworth Prison, Kansas. "Tubby" (a childhood nickname which stuck for his lifetime) and Jeannie operated Tubby's Cleaners for many years in Zionsville and Victory Cleaners on the eastside of Indianapolis.

Linda lived with her parents in Zionsville until the family purchased a home in 1958 on the far north side of Indianapolis on West 71st Street. Linda attended Pike Township Schools and graduated from Pike High School in 1970. As a child, her paternal grandmother, Irene, lived with the family periodically and had a pronounced effect on Linda. She often read stories, played games, and travelled on vacation with the family. It is surely from her beloved grandmother that Linda got her love of reading and writing.

Linda attended Ball State University in the fall of 1970, but when her father passed away unexpectedly in 1972 due to polycystic kidney disease, she returned home and helped Jeannie run the family's drycleaning business for several months. She returned to Ball State and finished her degrees in English and journalism on schedule in 1974. Linda married soon after graduation, but the marriage lasted only five years.

Few positions were available in the teaching field in the 1970's, so in 1976 Linda began employment and her career with the State of Indiana. She worked for several agencies and ended her career as a consultant with the Indiana Child Support Bureau in 2017 after 41 years of state employment.

While working for the State, Linda met married Stephen W. Ellis, an acquaintance from Ball State, in 1980. Besides being her husband, Steve was her best friend and confidant. They had one child, Christopher Michael Ellis, on 8-1-85. Chris was their pride and joy and excelled personally, academically, and athletically. Chris played soccer from age five through high school, and Steve and Linda supported his efforts. Many friends were made through Chris' involvement with youth and varsity soccer.

Linda was an animal lover. While she was working, you could often find her eating lunch outside on the retaining wall around the State Capitol. The squirrels would join her and eat right out of her hand, and her friends were sure she'd be bitten! Dogs, however, were her true passion, and after a toy poodle, then Chris's Dalmatian, came a series of Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, the breed that would capture her heart forever. Linda became involved with a national group, The Cavalier Brigade, that focused on facilitating rescue of Cavaliers. She did home visits for rescue placements and networked with other rescue groups. After her first Cavalier, Beau, came Tessa, Pippa, Abby Rose, and Rory James and Allie Liegh. It is Linda's wish that her dogs that have gone before her be buried with her ashes.

Linda found joy in arranging flowers for Random Acts of Flowers, a group that repurposes flowers for distribution to hospitals and patients in healthcare facilities. Working with the flowers and dedicated volunteers brought her peace and happiness much as the beautiful arrangements brought joy to the recipients.

Although in her later years, Linda struggled with numerous serious health problems, she always tried to maintain a positive attitude and outlook. By many, she was called brave and tough, but she didn't see it that way.

She is survived by her beloved husband of 45 years, Steve, of Fishers, and her son, Chris (Rebecca) of Lebanon.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 5, 2025, at Myers Mortuary, 1502 N. Lebanon Street in Lebanon, Indiana. Visitation from 10:00 a.m. until the time of service.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in her name may be made to the American Kidney Foundation, or to Cavalier Brigade through Nonni's fund by PayPal at [cavalierbrigade2@gmail.com](mailto:cavalierbrigade2@gmail.com).

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 5. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Myers Mortuary  
1502 North Lebanon Street  
Lebanon, IN 46052  
(765) 482-0620  
office@myersmortuary.com  
<https://myersmortuary.com/>

## Celebration of Life

APR 5. 11:00 AM (ET)

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# Tribute Wall

MC

“ Sometimes you meet people in the strangest way and then wonderful friendship forms, that was the case for Linda and I. Our friendship was formed through our mutual pain of watching and caring for our terminally ill fur babies. We spoke often throughout this time and we mutually held each other up and comforted each other when our beloved pets finally passed, my Bandit and her Pippa. Our friendship was created through our mutual love of Cavaliers but was so much more. I was the lucky one to have known her and be able to call her friend. Rest well my sweet friend. I will miss you. Love Marge and Ralph Congello

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**Marge Congello** - April 05, 2025 at 11:24 AM

LF

“ I met you with Abby Rose in AZ. There are times when you meet someone that you know you'll always be friends. You helped me make my first pup blanket n I made many more and donated them to our local animal rescue. You gave me strength by example. The way you lived, the happiness you gave & the laughter you shared and how you always made it to events you wanted. You are the grace everyone strives to have & the friend that everyone loves. I miss you my Linda. Thank you for being you. ❤️

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**Lisa Falchetti** - April 04, 2025 at 08:45 PM

FS

“ Oh Linda. You were the best. We met at our first Cavapalooza in Williamsburg, VA when the Ruby Cavalier I was transporting for Lucky Star snarled at Bad Boy Beau. He screamed, you came over and gave me "that look". I knew then that you were my kind of girl. I loved the way you loved Beau, Tessa, and Pippa, and HRH Abbey Rose, Rory James and Ally Leigh. I'll never forget the talking animal videos you posted. Your whip smart humor came through loud and clear. I will miss that and so much more, especially your smile! It was like sunshine. The trips you and Abby Rose made to Arizona meant the world to me. Thank you for being an amazing friend. The courage, dignity and grace with which you faced challenges was and is an inspiration to all. I'll end this as you always ended our phone conversations, "that's all I've got". Love you my friend.

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Fran Schubert - April 04, 2025 at 11:29 AM



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

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April 04, 2025 at 10:32 AM



“ Dreams From the Heart Bouquet was purchased for the family of Linda Ellis.



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April 04, 2025 at 10:32 AM

DB

“ *Diann and Rick Baker purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Linda Ellis.*



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**Diann and Rick Baker** - April 03, 2025 at 06:38 PM

AC

“ *Aspire CPAs planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Linda Ellis.*

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**Aspire CPAs** - April 01, 2025 at 01:36 PM

AC

“ *Aspire CPAs purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Linda Ellis.*



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**Aspire CPAs** - April 01, 2025 at 01:36 PM

JM

“ *When we first moved into our neighborhood, Linda & Steve were some of the first people who welcomed us. Over the years, they continued to be good neighbors and friends, and we are so sorry that Linda has passed. We miss her and will keep Steve and her family (dogs included) in our thoughts and prayers.. Janet & Jim Meyers*

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**janet and jim meyers** - March 15, 2025 at 01:09 PM

CH

“ Linda was a faithful and dedicated volunteer at Random Acts of Indianapolis for over 7 years. She was a pleasant addition to our workshop as she created lovely flower arrangements for us to deliver as 'moments of kindness'. We are very grateful that she chose to spend her time with us in support of our mission and she will be missed.

*Cheryl Cooper on behalf of all the RAFI Volunteers*

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**Cheryl** - March 10, 2025 at 10:51 AM

DK

“ Linda was my dear friend “across the pond”. I don't remember how we met but it was like we always knew each other. We would go to RAF every Thursday and have such a great time and they go out to lunch. She loved and was so proud of her family and pups!  
I will miss you deeply my dear friend❤️

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**Diane Kleinfelter** - March 08, 2025 at 02:05 PM

DV

“ Linda was really big in the Cavalier Brihade and that's how I really met her. She shared her babies with us, Rory James, Pippa and all. She did so much for Cavaliers, our group, and was such an inspiration to me. She will be missed

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**Delight Voignier** - March 08, 2025 at 01:05 PM

CC

“ Linda was always present and always had a smile, being the nurse I am I often recognized how much it took to be positive and not let her health challenges get in her way. She may not have felt she was brave but I assure you she was one of the bravest, kindest and most genuine people I have ever had the opportunity to share a room with. We meet through the love of Cavalier King Charles spaniels and we will dearly miss her presents. God spend Linda, give my boy Winnie a hug for me.



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**Carol Casey** - March 07, 2025 at 08:19 PM