



Sue Bahner

February 10, 1928 - September 21, 2021

Florence Suzanna McElwee Bahner, after 93 wonderful years of life, love and inspiration, finished this life's journey early in the morning on Tuesday, September 21st, so that the full moon marking the season's change could guide her to rejoin all those who waited for her by the Rainbow Bridge, especially her beloved husband Dave, her parents Florence & William McElwee, her brother Richard and sister-in-law Helen, her niece Sheila and nephew Brian, and Sputnik, Hunter, Tanner and Chompfers.

Acerbically witty, insightful and creative, she graduated high school at 16 and immediately began to build a remarkable career and an amazing life. The daughter of Irish immigrants and a survivor of the Depression, Sue later met, interviewed, and consulted with four US presidents. She served on the Executive Committee of the National Religious Broadcasters, for whom she traveled all over the world, and was the recipient of the William Ward Ayer Award for Distinguished Service, presented for excellence and integrity for outstanding and significant contributions to the field of Christian communications.

Sue served on the boards of both the Greater Syracuse and NYS Association of Evangelicals, was the first female president of the National Religious Broadcasters' (NRB) Eastern chapter, and served as chair of the NRB Radio Committee and as a long-time member of the Board of Directors. She

managed radio station WYRD in Syracuse, and WWWG and WDCW in Rochester – and then set up her own media consulting company after she ‘retired!’

A founding member of Eastern Hills Bible Church in Manlius, she was very active with the Women’s Connection, worked with the Youth Group, taught Sunday School, and with husband Dave led the rousing Sunday night singing!

Among her many other achievements, she was a credentialed journalist at the 1980 “Miracle on Ice” Olympic Games in Lake Placid, had her name in lights in Times Square, and prayed with political leaders in both the Kremlin and the Knesset. Proud of her Irish heritage, she co-founded the CNY chapter of the Irish American Cultural Institute and helped establish a Christian radio station in Ireland. *Leaba i measc naomh na hÉireann go raibh aici.* May she sleep among the saints of Ireland.

She was tough as nails, relentless, brilliant, and thoughtful. Generous but measured, her dry, clever humor, wry grin, and deep interest in others made everything an opportunity to learn or to teach. Hers was a wise, thoughtful and caring heart. Along with the many others whose lives were touched by her, her grateful family – daughter Suzi Harriff and husband Jim, daughter and son-in-law Caryl and Sean Bahner-Guhin, grandson Michael Harriff, and her nieces and nephews, Jeanne & Jim Gallagher and Bruce & Linda McElwee, together with their children – honors her life and legacy with deep gratitude.

Come and celebrate her life with a time of sharing and remembrance on Wednesday, October 27th from 4-7 pm at B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, 10 Genesee Street in Camillus, with a Service of Resurrection Celebration on Thursday, October 28th at 11 am at Mission Hope Community, 23 Main Street in Camillus.

In her honor, contributions may be made to the Blessing Fund of Mission Hope Community, 23 Main Street, Camillus, NY 13031, to the Dave and Sue Bahner Music Fund at Manlius Pebble Hill School, 5300 Jamesville Rd, Syracuse, NY 13214 or to the Long Pond Conservancy, c/o Champlain Area Trails, P.O. Box 193, Westport, NY 12993.

Please sign her guestbook at www.BLBUSH.com

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT **27**. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home
10 W. Genesee Street
Camillus, NY 13031
(315) 672-3400
info@bushfuneralhome.com
<https://www.bushfuneralhome.com/>

Service

OCT **28**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Mission Hope Community
23 Main Street
Camillus, NY 13031
missionhopecommunity@gmail.com

Tribute Wall



“ B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments created a Tribute Video in memory of Sue Bahner



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - October 27, 2021 at 05:38 PM



“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album 2



B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home / Monuments - October 28, 2021 at 11:11 PM

WA

“ Dear Suzi:

It is with great sadness I read of your mother's recent passing and upcoming celebration of life services. It has been about 49-50 years since we last communicated, you as a Fayetteville-Manlius senior and me at rival Jamesville-DeWitt. However, we both shared our love of music participating in All State Area and All County Choruses and I was the Principal Timpanist of the Jamesville-DeWitt High School Concert Band and the Syracuse Symphony Youth Orchestra. Your parents always supported your musical talents and I hope you have continued to exhibit your vocal talent over the past 50 years. My condolences to you and your family. I lost my father in 2012 and my mother in 2014. The pain never goes away but their memories and teachings still guide me which I pass on to my son and two grand daughters. God Bless you, Suzi.

*Your high school musical colleague
Warren Abrahams
Atlanta, Georgia*

Warren Abrahams - October 24, 2021 at 09:42 AM

WG

“ *I will always remember Sue and Dave fondly. Even spent some time with the whole family at their Manlius School Apartment. It was a refuge for me many times and an escape occasionally from the Schools Mess Hall. This was all in the late 50's but appreciated to this very day.*

William Goff - October 23, 2021 at 09:59 AM



“ Sunny Memories was purchased for the family of Sue Bahner.



October 18, 2021 at 04:34 PM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Suzi Harriff - October 07, 2021 at 11:36 AM



“ Kate H. lit a candle in memory of Sue Bahner



Kate H. - October 01, 2021 at 03:40 PM



Thank you for the remembrance tribute...

Suzi Harriff - October 06, 2021 at 01:10 PM

DH

“ I first knew Sue as Mrs Bahner, when her late husband Dave was my music teacher at Manlius Military School. Later years I would see Sue at Manlius reunions. It was always a great pleasure to see and talk with her. The friendship has continued through their wonderful daughter, Suzie Bahner Hariff. God bless all.

donaldo hart - September 30, 2021 at 11:33 AM

SH

Thank you...grateful for your ongoing friendship, dear Hart. :-)

Suzi Harriff - October 06, 2021 at 01:11 PM

CB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Caryl Bahner-Guhin - September 27, 2021 at 04:35 PM

BC

Beautiful photo! What a sweet memory. I am thankful for your family in the younger years of my life.

Betsy Chiesa - October 01, 2021 at 09:23 PM

TM

“ I'll never forget Sue's kindness and help when I moved my 'Irish Party House' radio show to WWWG in Rochester. It was her encouragement that led me to doing live remote broadcasts of the show at our annual Irish festival. Our prayers are with her family!!
Ted McGraw, Rochester, NY

Ted McGraw - September 27, 2021 at 12:52 PM

SH

Thank you Ted - she treasured both her 3WG and her Irish families!

Suzi Harriff - September 28, 2021 at 12:07 PM

PB

“ *I had the privilege of knowing and working with Sue for many years as a Christian broadcaster. I also have known and worked with Suzi and Jim through my late parents and as a pastor in Canastota. Prayers go out on behalf of Sue’s entire family as they grieve, but blessings on Sue as she hears her Lord say, “Well done, good and faithful servant. “*

Pastor Tom Burgess - September 27, 2021 at 09:27 AM

SH

Thank you, Tom. We are so grateful for your friendship and partnership in ministry over all these years.

Suzi Harriff - September 28, 2021 at 12:04 PM

MP

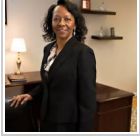
“ *To the family of Mrs. Bahner...I was sad to read of Mrs. Bahner’s death in the Post Standard. She was an interesting person who I (and my cousins) always enjoyed seeing at the Verbeck Grave Site Ceremonies at the old Manlius School. She was always there and will be missed.*
Sincerely,
Mary Verbeck Pomeroy, The Rev. Guido F. Verbeck III and General Howell M. Estes III

Mar Verbeck Pomeroy - September 26, 2021 at 01:18 PM

SH

Thank you Mary, Guido and Howell. She treasured her Manlius School and MPH families

Suzi Harriff - September 28, 2021 at 12:00 PM



“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your love ones. Trevor and Eunice Williams*

Eunice Williams - September 26, 2021 at 12:48 AM

SH

Thank you both - love you both.

Suzi Harriff - September 28, 2021 at 11:57 AM

BR

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Sean and your family. Bill Rosenthal, Jerry Gebo & Adam Gebo-Rosenthal*

Bill Rosenthal - September 25, 2021 at 08:35 PM

CB

Thank you Bill, Jerry, and Adam. Sure do miss her.

Caryl Bahner-Guhin - September 27, 2021 at 09:26 AM

TF

“ *The Communispond Family. purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Sue Bahner.*



The Communispond Family. - September 25, 2021 at 08:34 PM

CG

“ I was so lucky to have met this lively, witty, talented lady! Always a smile and a welcome hug. Sending hugs and prayers of sympathy. Suzi, Jim and family my heartfelt sympathy! Carole

Carole Gehrig - September 23, 2021 at 07:21 PM

HS

Thank you, Carole - much love to you and the Otter Lake crew!

Harriff Suzi - September 23, 2021 at 11:20 PM

PC

“ Dearest Suzi & Caryl and all the family ... I am thinking today of the extraordinary gift of a serendipitous encounter with a vivacious redhead at the back of a meeting room at the Western NRB so many years ago. A casual conversation blossomed into a lifetime friendship and I weep, selfishly, at the loss of that with Sue's graduation into eternity. She was a tenacious, compassionate, intuitive friend ... smart (!), witty, poetic :-), tender ... one in a million. I will miss her so much as she cared for me in ways that others who haven't journeyed as we did aren't able to do. I know heaven resounded on her arrival and she is reuniting with a host including her beloved Dave and my dearest Jon. There is much comfort in that. Her life and legacy is indelibly imprinted on my heart as it is on yours, I know. Praying for His comfort that He gives generously as you celebrate her thoroughly remarkable life.-- Peggy Campbell

Peggy Campbell - September 23, 2021 at 07:19 PM

HS

Thank you, Peggy...she so treasured you and Jon!

Harriff Suzi - September 23, 2021 at 11:17 PM

CB

Thank you Peggy!

Caryl Bahner-Guhin - September 27, 2021 at 09:26 AM

KD

“ Susie I never knew your Mom but I ask the Lord’s blessing for you and the family during this time of separation. God Bless.

Kathleen Danley - September 23, 2021 at 06:56 PM

HS

Thank you, Kathleen.

Harriff Suzi - September 23, 2021 at 11:18 PM

RF

We are so sorry for your loss.

It’s never easy losing a parent and may the happy memories you had together bring a smile to your face during this difficult time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Sean, your sister and your family.

Vicki and Richard Fischer

Richard Fischer - September 24, 2021 at 02:25 PM

CB

Thank you Vickie and Richard. She is so missed.

Caryl Bahner-Guhin - September 27, 2021 at 09:25 AM