



Leslie Virginia Dunne

April 24, 1962 - September 23, 2023

In Memoriam: Leslie Virginia Dunne

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Leslie Dunne, a very loved member of our family. Leslie fought a brave battle against recently diagnosed multiple myeloma and peacefully left us on September 23, 2023. We will never forget Leslie's wonderful character, the beautiful person she was inside and out, her compassion, humor, and kindness.

Leslie was adored by her family, friends, work colleagues and in her community. She was an extremely generous person who gave unconditionally to all the lucky ones who were in her life.

Throughout her life, Leslie dedicated herself to learning and education, including earning a Linguistics Degree and Master's Degree in public administration, as well as success in pivotal roles and experiences in consequential organizations, including Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies (HMHB) and Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM). Her legacy of dedication, kindness, and professionalism will forever be remembered.

Additionally, Leslie also completed work assignments as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Africa and Missionary Work in Haiti. Wherever she was and whatever work she did, Leslie was always impactful and made a difference in the world. It wasn't just the importance of the work and the missions she was involved with, but also her unique ability to display an always cheerful

disposition and consistently a very trusted person in all situations.

Leslie devoted herself and her vast expertise to a lifetime of service and helping others in small and big ways.

Leslie is survived by her 15-year-old son, Evan, who was the most important person to her and the center of Leslie's world. Out of all the incredible experiences Leslie had in her lifetime, perhaps the most defining was being a mother to Evan. Evan lit up Leslie's life like no one else did and she had more purpose and love than ever before. She also instilled a sense of adventure into the many activities that she arranged with Evan and their relationship was very special.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, October 7, 2023.

Leslie was born in New York, daughter of Bob and Joan Dunne and one of seven children.

Let us remember Leslie for her remarkable contributions and keep her son Evan in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult period. She will be deeply missed and never forgotten. She had enormous integrity and always took the high road and kept a happy demeanor and positive attitude. Leslie was God centered, and never lost her faith no matter what she was facing. She had a genuine heart and a generous soul.

She was a bright light and will be in our hearts forever. May her light lead the way for all of us.

A Gathering will be held Saturday, October 7, 2023, at 2PM, followed by a Memorial Service, at Jefferson Funeral Chapel, 5755 Castlewellan Drive, Alexandria, VA 22315.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Evan Dunne Fund (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/evan-esubalew>).

Previous Events

Gathering

OCT 7. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

Memorial Service

OCT 7. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Jefferson Funeral Chapel
5755 Castlewellan Drive
Alexandria, VA 22315
(703) 971-7400
info@jeffersonfuneralchapel.com
<https://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com>

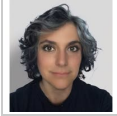
Tribute Wall

“ My Friend Leslie,

I went to see a production of Godspell today. It was special to me for several reasons. It was a production including special needs young people, they did an amazing job! I have always loved the words and music of this production – but another reason it has so much meaning in my life is that Leslie gave me a cassette of the music when we were both starting training for our two-year Peace Corps work in Zaire (Now DRC) in 1985. I was scared to death. Leslie, a guy named Brian and I learned we were Christians and decided to meet early early in the mornings to pray and talk about how to keep apprehension at bay when we're learning to teach in French and local languages. Leslie was a Godsend to me during that time. We didn't get to see each other except at regional conferences over the next two years, but every time I saw her, she was like an anchor for me. I sang the Godspell songs and found so much encouragement from them for those two years. After we got back to the States, I moved to Arlington Va for a job at USDA and Les was working for Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies in DC. Even though she loved her Catholic faith, She started coming to the Arlington Methodist Church Young Adult group with me and we had a blast. We shared an apartment in Alexandria for almost a year and she was such a kick to live with. We kept our fake Christmas tree up most of the year and hung our laundry on it to dry so we wouldn't have to pay for the dryer. No big deal until guests came to visit. We used box tops to sled down the Masonic Temple hills right behind our apartment (once, and then there was a sign prohibiting sledding!) We both loved to sing and she made guitar playing look easy. We figured-out that her name meant "Old Grey Fort" and my name meant "Happy Waterfall" so we made the most of that! She worked with my now-husband to surprise me when he came to propose. We told each other we were "ridiculous." She loved Jesus. Was forthright. What you saw was what you got and she was honest about how she felt about things. She was a breath of fresh air to me. She was a bridesmaid in my wedding to Rob (who she helped to trick me!) I have lived in Colorado for about 30 years now. When our kids were in middle and high school, I directed a

production of Godspell for our church youth group and it was one of the highlights of my life. Les came to visit a couple of times while she was at conferences in Denver. We continued to tell each other we were "ridiculous." I met Evan once when we were in DC several years ago. It was so obvious that Evan was her pride and joy and she loved him with all of her heart. It was so cool to get her cards and notes about how she and Evan were doing. So when my friend Dora Sue Black called two years ago now to tell me Les had died from a very progressive cancer, it was like a fist to my chest. And I haven't been able to write a tribute or memory of her until today... when I sang along with a bunch of very special young adults to one of my favorite musicals of all time...remembering my friend Leslie Dunne. I love you, Les. I miss you so. And I can't wait to give you the biggest hug when I see you again. I know where you'll be – sitting at Jesus' feet singing. Happy Waterfall, Gay

Gay Picker - March 22, 2025 at 10:26 PM



I loved reading your thoughts and memories of LVD. Thank you so much. One of my cats just gave birth to kittens last night and when I took note of the date I thought; hey isn't that Leslie's birthday. That got me thinking of her and I realized I never looked for her obituary. I think of Leslie and Evan so often. I feel we all got really gypped in life that god took her so young. I really imagined us spending more time together as we grew old. Just goes to show you that we all need to appreciate the now. I am probably Leslie's oldest friend (sadly not the best). Our parents were friends before we were born. She came from a really fun family. We went caroling every Christmas season - her family organized it. We spent our early birthdays together. We were in the same kindergarten class, had our holy communion and confirmations together at Saint Edward's church, we graduated from same elementary, middle and high school & even went to our 10 year reunion together. We lived on opposite sides of the country so we spoke on the phone. My son and I were blessed to visit with her for a week when my son was 12 & Evan was 10. When we saw each other, time slipped away and it was like nothing had ever changed. I was devastated to learn of her death and think back with sadness that she is gone. I love you Leslie and I miss you. Please year my prayers for you. Darling - I am so proud of you and your contribution to the world. You made a big difference in so many lives , mine included. RIP

Alice Rosenthal - April 25, 2025 at 09:39 AM

LB

“ I don't know the reason Leslie's name came to me today. I immediately searched the internet and learned she had passed away recently. My prayers are with Evan and the family in this season of bereavement. I moved back to my home state of Louisiana years ago. I sent her an email, and she replied with a few words of wisdom. I was fortunate to work with Leslie during my tenure at Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies. She was a great administrator but also enjoyed her downtime. I remember all the late nights she spent to help fulfill HMHB's mission. There was never a time that she wasn't smiling. Keep smiling my friend!

Laquitta Bowers



Laquitta Bowers - November 14, 2023 at 06:29 PM

PA

“ I was one of Evan's teacher's at Lane and I remember Leslie as a warm and caring mother. Sending lots of prayers for Evan and the family as they negotiate their new lives without her.

Pamela Koerkenmeier Abbott - September 29, 2023 at 03:32 PM