



Elizabeth "Betsy" A. Loyle
March 11, 1966 - February 2, 2025

Dear Citizens,

In an earlier correspondence I relayed the sad news that Elizabeth “Betsy” Loyle had passed away.

Her husband Mike asked me to speak about birds at her service, because Betsy had a deep connection with and love of birds and nature.

This is what I shared at her “Heavens to Betsy” memorial last week –

Over the years, after a loved one had passed away, many people have told me that a bird visited them at their window or in their yard, and in that moment nature provided them with a connection to their loved one. The bird’s arrival had a special significance for them. They were not suggesting that the bird was a reincarnation of their loved one, but rather it was a messenger of sorts: a loved one’s soul hitching a winged ride to let those who remain – earth-bound now — know that “things will be alright.” A

consoling effect, a remembrance, a spiritual moment.

My point is not that birds were created for us to enjoy, or to be unique heavenly messengers for people – but rather that they are imbued with spiritual meanings, and that they provide us with deep connections to nature.

Especially for those who take time to foster an interest in our avian community – as Betsy did.

Betsy had that kind of relationship with nature and people. Be it professionally or in recreational pursuits Betsy took time to care about the world around her and make a difference for others. It was part of her spirit. She was a traveler and an achiever.

Some people, as they navigate life, simply take from it, while others change the world around them. Betsy was a transformer within her sphere of influence.

She appreciated birds and grew native plants. She called modern day landscaping “plastic lollipops.” Betsy wanted life: real and authentic, meaningful. In her profession she provided that to people – and in her yard she provided that for nature.

I shared a story about black-necked cranes which has spiritual significance. It is but one example of how many cultures have reverence for birds and embrace them.

The story -

There is an annual event in Bhutan, known to many as Shangri-La, a small country north of India. The event involves a winter return of cranes from their breeding grounds - on the Tibetan Plateau - to Bhutan. Bhutan is a small country of 800,000 people, a country that puts nature above all else. Nature is rooted in their faith.

Their Buddhist philosophy of re-incarnation places every living thing, from the humblest to the highest, in a single chain of birth, life, and death. All life is part of this spiritual procession linking the souls of humans and animals together in the common purpose of achieving the ultimate goal of Nirvana. Compassion and good deeds to lower life forms speed on the individual’s passage from this world to a higher plane in the next.

Betsy practiced this sort of philosophy.

In Bhutan there is a monastery in the Black Mountains called Gantey Gompa. There monks pray for the annual return of black-necked cranes. They consider them Bodisattva – *beings that have achieved their own enlightenment and seek to help others on their path to Nirvana.*

“Thrung Thrung Karmo” is the Bhutanese name for the bird. It is steeped in their folklore and songs and often associated with *peace and prosperity*. Bhutanese believe that past ancestors inhabit the souls of these cranes.

The cranes’ annual arrival at the monastery is said to be marked by three encirclements of the friary before landing in the center of its marsh. People believe they are blessed when cranes circle their valleys. The black-necked cranes perform their ritual courtship dances and toss objects at each other, a way of affirming their monogamous bonds.

Here...

Along the river we have our own annual arrivals.

Each spring male osprey bring sticks to the nest and begin their loud courtship calls.

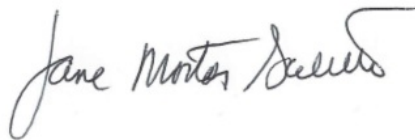
Like cranes, osprey pairs bond for life and the arrival of a bird that remains solitary is a sad affair. Osprey and cranes will ultimately seek a new mate.

Each year, like the monks, Betsy marked the return of the osprey with reverence. When our colony was in its early years it was not rare for people all along the river to call me when they spied the first osprey of the season. Their spring arrival never grew old for Betsy.

Like birds Betsy liked to travel. She enjoyed seeing new places and engaging in different cultures. Above all else Betsy was wise, compassionate, involved, positive and had a smile and aura that portrayed all those things – and she shone for all of us. It is my hope that each year family members and friends will anticipate the arrival of the first osprey and when they spot one, they will think of Betsy and other loved ones, just as the monks in Bhutan do when their beloved cranes return each winter. Godspeed, Betsy.

Once again, our condolences go to her family: husband Mike and her children, Julia (Valentin) Shulzhenko, Corrinne Hoffman, JD (Morgan) Loyle, and Gary (Lenore) Frank, as well as her grandchildren, Robert and Heidi Frank. Below you will find the thoughtful obituary.

Sincerely,



Jane Morton Galetto
CU Maurice River Board President

Elizabeth A. Loyle

March 11, 1966 - February 2, 2025

Elizabeth A. Loyle
March 11, 1966 - February 2, 2025

Elizabeth (Betsy) Loyle greeted life with an open heart and a sharp wit. When she set her mind to something, she made it happen, whether building a career, tackling a new adventure, or exploring the world one trip at a time. Born in Philadelphia on March 11, 1966, she built a life filled with love, resilience, travel, and an unshakable devotion to family. On February 2, 2025, at the age of 58, Elizabeth took in one last beautiful sunset over the Maurice River, the place that brought her the most peace, before passing away at home surrounded by the people who loved her most.

Elizabeth graduated from Buena High School in 1984, where she was a member of the marching band as a majorette for three years and a drum major in her senior year. Upon graduating, she attended Stockton University, where she was the first in her family to receive a college degree, a Bachelor's in Literature. She then spent many years running

a masonry business and later moved on to work as the Director of Operations for the Millville Housing Authority and finally as Executive Director of the Wildwood Housing Authority. She prided herself on her academic and professional achievements, using her go-getter attitude and fearless spirit to guide her throughout her endeavors. When someone told Elizabeth she couldn't do something, she replied with, "Watch me." Even while battling an aggressive cancer and undergoing chemo and radiation treatments, Elizabeth managed to complete her MBA with honors, a life-long goal of hers.

Aside from her academic and professional achievements, Elizabeth was an avid reader with a curious disposition that led her to seek out many different interests and hobbies. She was a lover of instruments but a master of none- having taken piano, guitar, and violin lessons. She also shared a deep connection with nature, spending many days kayaking, gardening (with only New Jersey native plants), watching sunsets, stargazing, and hiking the Maurice River Bluffs Preserve with her husband, Michael, and dog, Findley. Those who knew Elizabeth well knew of her deep love for birds. Much to her daughter's chagrin, her enthusiasm extended to playing bird call CDs in the car—an early sign of her lifelong passion. She was a proud member of the New Jersey Bluebird Society. She eagerly anticipated the annual purple martin migration on the Maurice River, often taking the boat out to witness the spectacle each August.

Elizabeth's love for nature was matched only by her love for people. Elizabeth firmly believed in giving back to the community and helping those in need, dedicating much of her time and energy to service. She spent many years as an active member of the Vineland Rotary Club, where she held several leadership positions, including serving as President from 2008 to 2009. During her time with Rotary, Elizabeth found great joy in participating in community service projects, always looking for ways to make a meaningful impact. She embraced the club's global connections, hosting an exchange student from Brazil for a year and welcoming Group Study Exchange (GSE) teams from around the world. Her passion for community involvement extended beyond Rotary, as she also served as a board member of the Cumberland Cape YMCA and the A.J. Meerwald, graduated from Leadership Cumberland County, and was a member of Citizens United to Protect the Maurice River. Her dedication to service was a way of life that left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing her.

Elizabeth was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother whose love and guidance shaped the lives of those closest to her. She is survived by her beloved husband, Michael Loyle, and her children, Julia (Valentin) Shulzhenko, Corrinne Hoffman, JD (Morgan) Loyle, and Gary (Lenore) Frank, as well as her grandchildren, Robert and Heidi Frank. Though she is no longer with us, her light will continue to shine in the hearts of all who knew her- like the lingering glow of the sun as it kisses the river goodnight.

The following was distributed before the service to our membership and is retained here for historic purposes.

Per her wishes, Elizabeth was cremated. A "Heavens to Betsy" celebration will be held at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, February 12, 2025, at Wainwright-Bernhardt Funeral Home, 1024 E. Landis Ave. Vineland. Family and friends may gather from 11:00 – 12:00 pm

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you take a moment to be kind to a stranger or plant a tree - preferably native - in honor of Elizabeth.

Condolences may be shared with the family at www.wbfuneralhome.com

Arrangements are in the care of Wainwright-Bernhardt Funeral Home, Vineland.

CU ON THE RIVER

www.CUMauriceRiver.org



Citizens United To Protect the Maurice River and Its Tributaries | P.O. Box 474 | Millville, NJ
08332 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!