



Elizabeth C. Belthoff

August 5, 2025

In Loving Memory of Elizabeth Costello Belthoff

“Beans”, “Goop”, “Mom”, “Nana”, "Aunt", “Mrs. B”

June 5, 1954 – August 5, 2025

Elizabeth Costello Belthoff — lovingly known by many names — passed away peacefully surrounded by her family on August 5, 2025. Though the world is dimmer without her in it, the light she brought to everyone who knew her will continue to shine through her family, her friendships, and the countless lives she touched.

Liz was born at St. Vincent’s Hospital in New York City in 1954 and moved to New Milford, NJ, in the early 1960s. It was in the Costello home on Shea Drive that her deep love of reading was first sparked by her father, George, a publishing executive. Her affection for game shows — which culminated years later in a proud appearance on Jeopardy! — began around the family dinner table, where wit and curiosity were part of every conversation.

Liz and her brother, George, were raised by loving parents, George Leo Costello and Helen Murial Costello. In 1971, on a street corner in New Milford, Liz met the boy who would become her high school sweetheart and, eventually, her husband of 44 years, Tom. She graduated from New Milford High School in 1972.

With her photographic memory, sharp mind, and insatiable love of learning, Liz attended Saint Mary's College at Notre Dame before transferring to Columbia University to earn her nursing degree. She went on to receive her master's in nursing from Boston College/Harvard in 1981, becoming a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

Liz began her nursing career at Columbia Presbyterian Babies Hospital, then went on to Newark Beth Israel, where she ran the pediatric ambulatory surgery unit. But after the birth of her first child, Katie, in 1985, Liz chose to put her career aside and dedicate herself fully to her most important and treasured role: Mom.

Together, Liz and Tom built a home overflowing with joy — filled with Christmas decorations and music in December, full-sized candy bars at Halloween, and backyard laughter all spring and summer. The front door was always open. Everyone was welcome.

Later in life, Liz returned to the classroom as a beloved teacher at the Reformed Church Nursery School. With her gentle spirit and boundless patience, she became a treasured presence for the little ones she taught — only retiring to spend even more time with her pride and joy: her family.

Liz loved trips down the shore to LBI and to Disney World, but ultimately, she loved just being in her backyard surrounded by her children and grandchildren, gazing up at the stars long after the sun had set. Those starlit skies will now shine even brighter, knowing Liz is watching over us from above.

Everything Liz did, she did for her family. She was selfless, kind beyond measure, and had a way of making everyone — from her grandkids to new friends — feel deeply loved and seen. Liz was sunshine. She was warmth. She was all things good.

She was preceded in death by her beloved parents, George and Helen, and her grandson, Keegan — whom she is now surely holding close in heaven.

Liz is survived by her devoted husband, Tom, and their five children:

Katie McCarten (JP), parents of Shea, Cullen, Grady, and Flynn
Meaghan Giordanella (Matt), parents of Maeve, Claire, and Ada
Tommy Belthoff (Kristen), parents of Keira, Brielle, and Rose
Kevin Belthoff (Katie Sharp), parents of Riley and Rowan, and the late
Keegan
Connor Belthoff

Her 13 grandchildren — her beloved “bunnies” — were the light of her life and the center of her world.

In lieu of flowers, the Belthoff family kindly requests donations in Liz’s memory to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee — a cause close to her heart.

Cemetery Details

Westwood Cemetery

Kinderkamack Road
Westwood, NJ

Previous Events

Visitation

AUG 11. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Volk Leber Funeral Home
268 Kinderkamack Road
Oradell, NJ 07649
info@volkleber.com
<http://volkleberfuneralhome.com>

Mass of Christian Burial

AUG 12. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Joseph's RCC
300 Elm Street
Oradell, NJ 07649

Tribute Wall



“ *Volk Leber Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Elizabeth C. Belthoff*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - August 11, 2025 at 02:11 PM



Sending warm thoughts to all her family and friends. Mrs. Belthoff was our son's pre-k teacher for one year and I can truly say she was the definition of love.

Elizabeth Gallus Gandolfo - August 11, 2025 at 08:39 PM

CT

Dear Tom and family, we were so very sorry to hear this news. Liz was one of the best. Her gift of kindness to all will live on in her children and grandchildren. We felt so blessed to have our son join the whole Belthoff clan when he and Natalie married. Beloved Aunt Liz will be missed but all. Thinking of all of you, Ed and Colleen Tice.

Colleen Kalt Tice and Ed Tice - August 13, 2025 at 11:32 AM

DD

“ *Thinking of you and your family at this difficult time. Mrs. Belthoff was always joyful and kind to me. I have many lovely memories of her and your family. She will be missed.*
Diana DeClue (Keane)



Diana DeClue - August 17, 2025 at 07:01 PM

BF

“ I have known Tom as a friend/ colleague for over 45 years. Liz and their children are like an extension of our family knowing them all as they grew up. We are so saddened by Liz' passing and our hearts go out to the entire Belthoff family. The outpouring of love and support for this family from the hundreds of mourners lined up for hours to pay their respects at the wake was amazing and shows the impact Liz and her family have had on the entire community. Rest in peace, Liz and may her entire family take comfort in their memories of their mom, nana and friend.

Brian Frisch - August 12, 2025 at 02:10 AM

SB

“ Our deepest sympathies go out to all of Liz's family. She was a truly special person and it was our privilege to know and love her. Her legacy of love is embodied by all of her children, grandchildren and Tom. She was the matriarch of a wonderful family who touched the lives of so many people. May God hold Liz in his hand as she enjoys eternal life. With love, Karen and Steve

Steve Boswell - August 11, 2025 at 01:41 PM

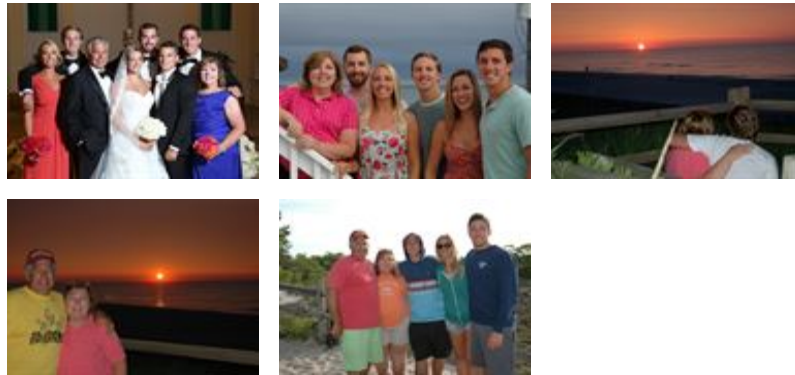
AS

She was a beautiful person inside and out!! She will not be forgotten!!!!
Arlene Collins

Arlene Collins Schiavello - August 11, 2025 at 09:24 PM



“ 110 files added to the album *Life Tributes*



Volk Leber Funeral Home - August 11, 2025 at 01:03 PM

TP

“ Our heartfelt prayers and deepest condolences go out to the entire Belthoff family. We are deeply saddened by the loss of Liz—a truly extraordinary human being and one of the most loving, devoted mothers we have ever known. Her kindness and generosity touched our entire family in ways we will never forget, and we feel profoundly blessed to have had her in our lives.
Love, The Powell Family

Tina Powell - August 11, 2025 at 10:40 AM

KA

“ Deepest condolences to the entire Belthoff family. Liz was such a kind, loving and special person. Larry, Alexis and I truly loved all the LBI vacations with the Belthoff crew. We will miss her smiling face and infectious laugh. May she rest in eternal peace.
Kelly, Larry and Alexis Annuziata

Kelly Maguire Annuziata - August 10, 2025 at 10:05 AM

AL

“ We reconnected after many years after high school as our kids grew up together in Oradell. She was kind, sweet and always upbeat. A true warrior.

Andrew Lazarus - August 08, 2025 at 11:20 AM

WR

“ Elizabeth was such a great person from my family to yours thoughts and prayers

william rode - August 07, 2025 at 11:03 PM

KY

“ Let me start by offering my sincere condolences to Liz's family. I know her memory will live forever in the hearts and minds of everyone, family and friends, who knew and loved her. I'd known Elizabeth since the first grade at BF Gibbs Elementary School in New Milford and later at New Milford High School. She was always one of the nicest, most likeable kids in school. A hello and a smile from Liz could make my day. Years later we exchanged email addresses and reminisced together about those days, and it was amazing how forty years later we remembered and shared the same memories of our childhood in New Milford. Elizabeth, may you rest in peace, my friend.

Ken Yodowitz - August 07, 2025 at 10:35 PM

AZ

“ I know Liz is with God and will continue to impact her family and friends with heavenly love. She was a courageous woman, wife, mother, grandmother and touched many lives. My condolences and prayers to all her family. Annette Ziegler

Annette Ziegler - August 07, 2025 at 09:21 PM

K1

“ I am so very sorry for your loss , and the world’s loss for you Tom and your entire family. Liz was my only girlfriend that I stayed in touch with from our SMC/ND days. She was one of the prime reasons why I stuck with my ND experience after a disastrous freshman year. I dated Liz’s roommate freshman year, but talked to Liz more than her roommate. We laughed when we talked about dating each other , but we decided we had more fun being great friends. Liz was right as usual. I only wished we were able to see each other and our families all these past years. I last spoke with her last year and it was like it was 47 years before. We are heartbroken , and I will miss Liz and her spirit so very much. Prayers for Liz and Tom and your family.

Kevin Downs. ND class of 1976. - August 07, 2025 at 08:46 PM

CB

“ I wanted to share a picture of Cousin Liz that always makes me smile.



Christine Mikoluk Brophy - August 07, 2025 at 08:37 PM

CB

“ I am so saddened by the loss of Cousin Liz.

I have many fond memories of Liz from visiting Uncle Leo and Aunt Helen with our Nana.

I remember one summer in particular. I loved when she came home from a summer job where she was editing (I think). A core memory was one night where she was so giggly and tickled about finding the word 'assets' misspelled. She was too proper to pronounce the word that was missing its 't'. Her smile went up to her eyes and was so mischievous and infectious. It is a core memory for me to this day!

We bonded again about 15 years ago when I received my breast cancer diagnosis. She was a great comfort to me on many occasions when I needed her positivity.

I agree her light will continue to shine through the people who were lucky enough to have had it shine on them.

With love,Christine (daughter of Jean, Uncle Leo's youngest sister),

Christine Mikoluk Brophy - August 07, 2025 at 08:31 PM

KD

“ I will always remember Liz for her pleasant and kind demeanor, remembering her best when my children were very young she helped at the sitter service on Sundays at Saint Joseph's, and also as a customer at New Milford Shoprite where I have worked since 1986..... rest in peace Liz

Karen Dean-Iler - August 07, 2025 at 06:44 PM

LM

“ My sincerest condolences to Tom and children. I worked with Liz on our last class reunion, she was a pleasure. We shared both having Scottish Terriers. My Angus and her Mumford who I know was waiting at the Rainbow Bridge for her. She was a kind, friendly and loving person who I pray will rest in peace in God’s paradise. A true loss to all who knew her.

LuAnn Miroddi - August 07, 2025 at 06:26 PM

CF

“ This breaks my heart & I send love & prayers to her family for their loss. Liz was my very 1st friend. We were only 3 when we moved into Shea Drive. We shared countless childhood memories. Our parents became good friends. They would have coffee clutches & sit in the front porch after dinner watching us. We learned to hula hoop, ride bikes, play endless ball games, and cards on rainy days. We started kindergarten together & walked to school together everyday. Our neighborhood friend group expanded with addition of Betsy, Noel & a few others. We would all walk to school together. We grew up in a wonderful neighborhood during the best of times.



cheri canner falconer - August 07, 2025 at 06:19 PM

LB

“ Liz was an amazing person and parent. She cared deeply for her family and I remember her as a loving parent who wanted the best for her family. Liz will be missed and I feel fortunate having known her.

Lorraine Brooks

Lorraine Brooks - August 07, 2025 at 05:12 PM

JB

“ We want to send our sincere condolences to Tom, children and grandchildren as they maneuver their grief and sadness. May all the beautiful memories they hold last their lifetime! God Bless Liz and her beautiful family. The Bulls

Joanne Bull - August 07, 2025 at 02:29 PM

CE

“ Liz was one of a kind. She could juggle everything in life with a smile and grace. I am so happy she got to see and hold all four of her new grandchildren. She had messaged me about the joy she and Tom had as grandparents and how lucky that all the kids were close by. Everytime I watch jeopardy I think of her. That was a dream come true and she wasn't going to let anything stop her. Tom, Katie, Meg, Tommy, Kevin and Connor, Mickey and I are thinking of you all. Liz for sure is a beautiful angel who will always be with you. ❤️ The Eisemans

Carol Eiseman - August 06, 2025 at 07:29 PM

AM

“ When I think about Liz, a whole bunch of really inspiring memories come through. Liz is a fiercely devoted Mom, who was always at her children's sporting events and there were a lot. The fact that she had 5 children is amazing but the way she juggled all of them was impressive. She never looked overwhelmed, only overjoyed. As supportive as Liz was of her children, she was a loyal wife to Tom. Their love story is romantic and true. Their commitment to each other is to be admired. I will never forget Liz's 40th birthday party at White Beeches. It was filled with her family, relatives and friends. I felt honored to be on the guest list. The evening was a testament to Liz's life of giving and friendship. One of the highlights of the evening is when Tom grabbed the mike and sang "Fly me to the moon" to Liz. How special, how amazing and heartwarming. A great moment.

Liz had her share of health challenges, but she never let her spirit down. She remained strong and positive through it all. I remember her going on Jeopardy. It was a goal of hers and she was up to the task and even bragged that it was the first time she was wearing a wig, as she had lost her hair due to chemo. Liz was not a person to let bad circumstances get her down and she reveled in all the joys of her life. She had many. I will miss you, Liz. You have made your mark in our community and we are all blessed to have known you. There is an emptiness in our town, but a new light is shining from above. It is a bright one indeed. Thank you Liz for being our beacon on earth and our star in heaven. Love to Katie, Meaghan, Tommy, Kevin, Connor and Tom. Thank you for sharing your Liz with all of us. You were her rock and she is now your angel. All my love, Amy May

Amy May - August 05, 2025 at 07:21 PM

MF

“ *The Belthoff family was one of the first families to welcome me to Oradell as a young Police Officer. As the years went on my relationship with all of you grew and I'm so glad to be apart of your lives and Liz was one of the best people I have even met. I'm going to miss her dearly but I'm glad I was able to know her like I did. Thank you and my sincere condolences to you Tom, Katie, Tommy, Megan, Kevin, and Chubs.*

Marc Fedorchak - August 05, 2025 at 07:14 PM

FA

“ *Lito and I send our condolences to Tom and the entire family for this devastating loss which will be felt by many. Liz was a wonderful human being.*

felicja Arago - August 05, 2025 at 03:47 PM

JB

“ *Heaven surely welcomed an angel today..my sincere condolences to Tom, her children, grandchildren, and family. My deepest sympathy to all. ❤️❤️❤️*

Jill Barbarise - August 05, 2025 at 03:02 PM

KJ

*Such a huge loss to so many. I can not even imagine that Liz is not here sitting on her front step, smiling, saying hello. Always upbeat! Feeling beyond sad. ❤️
I spoke to her in June on her birthday, she was in the hospital, she sounded great, like Liz always sounded. She said the entire shift came in to sang happy birthday to her. Hard to believe.*

Katherine Jarzembowski - August 07, 2025 at 08:37 AM

KM

I have many wonderful, funny, and special memories with Liz during our Cornerstone times together. She was filled with God's love that radiated through her heart, eyes, and her smile. When I think of Liz the first word that comes to mind is "family". Her family was everything to her! My sincere condolences and prayers to all of you!

Kim Molke - August 07, 2025 at 08:28 PM

CK

Sending hugs and prayers to Tommy and his whole beautiful family. I remember when Tom and Liz started dating and Liz became a member of the Graphic Blvd gang. Then off to St Mary's she went and Tom to Kings while I was at Miseri. I always admired their dedication to each other and spoke of them often as rare HS sweethearts that endured it all. You have beautiful memories that I know you will always cherish.

Cindy Jalil Kaney - August 08, 2025 at 10:46 AM

CV

During my time as Principal of St. Joseph School I came to know Tom, Liz and Katie quite well. I know your hearts are breaking right now, but rejoice in knowing that Heaven welcomed her with open arms and she watches over you now from her place there! I am so sorry for your loss...please know I hold you in my heart. Mrs. Colette Vail

Colette Vail - August 09, 2025 at 10:40 AM